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The Cloud Spinner



Synopsis

One small boy has a special gift—he can weave cloth from the clouds: gold in the early morning with the rising sun, white in the afternoon, and crimson in the evening. He spins just enough cloth for a warm scarf. But when the king sees the boy's magnificent cloth, he demands cloaks and gowns galore. "It would not be wise," the boy protests. "Your majesty does not need them!" But spin he must—and soon the world around him begins to change. From author Michael Catchpool and illustrator Alison Jay comes a magical tale about the beauty and fragility of our natural world, and the wisdom and courage needed to protect it.

Book Information

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Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

This book resonates with ethereal and otherworldly beauty while delivering an important message. It begins, "There was once a boy who could weave cloth from the clouds. He had a spinning wheel and a loom on top of a hill. As the clouds passed, with a whir of the wheel, he would spin them into thread; gold in the morning with the rising sun, white in the afternoon, and crimson in the evening". The boy, taught well by his mother, "Enough is enough and not one stitch more", is a paragon of quiet wisdom. In this timeless tale he encounters a vain and boastful king whose greed disrupts the balance of everything. The intervention of a brave, resourceful princess rescues the kingdom from impending disaster. She does so by asking the urgent question, "Is it too late to undo

what has been done?" Masterful illustration by Alison Jay complements the text in weaving this magical modern parable.

I have purchased numerous Caldecott and Newbery award winning books and this one ranks up there with the best of them. Noted illustrator Alison Jay is at the top of her game with this beautiful book. Micheal Catchpool's story is whimsical and heartfelt with an important life lesson to tell. Short enough to keep the little one's attention, but long enough to tell a beautiful story. I bought this along with other beautiful stories like "Plant a Kiss," "Interrupting Chicken," "A Sick Day for Amos MGee," "Boy+Bot" and several Fancy Nancy books - all wonderful books - but the Cloud Spinner stood out among these classics. I highly recommend it!

A lovely children's story with beautiful illustrations and a wise, magical story about the fragile nature of our world and the wisdom needed to protect it. Our little one loves this story-- the illustrations are detailed and the story provides plenty of memorable lines. Fantastic children's book that is modern but with the charm and pacing of a classic.

A little boy can weave fantastic cloth from the clouds, drawing different colors from them at different times of the day. His mother has always taught him that "enough is enough, and not one stitch more", but he's ordered to weave more cloth by a greedy king, with dire consequences for the occupants of the kingdom. The princess helps him to make things right. Truly a lovely story. It's one that I'll be picking off the shelf in hopes that my 4yo will want to hear it. He's asked for it multiple times already after just having it a day or two, so it seems to appeal to both adults and children. The messages are subtle and incorporated into the story, rather than feeling heavy handed, but give a great opening for talking about greed and being happy with enough. As always, Alison Jay's illustrations are a treat. She always has so many exquisite little details that one can see new things after a dozen reads.

In this lovely, dreamy fable, a wise young boy spins clouds into cloth under the stricture "Enough is enough and not one stitch more." One day a greedy king spies his cloud-woven scarf and wants more, more, more, despite the young boy's warnings. When the king's greed dries up the clouds, it's up to the observant princess and the wise boy to set things right. Released as *Cloth from the Clouds* in Britain, this story has a universal appeal for both boys and girls, and works beautifully for a read-aloud. Catchpool employs the stricture from the story, using just enough words to convey the

story and "not one [word] more." Further, he understands the need for key (non-annoying) repetitive phrases that keep the story anchored, and delivers his message of conservation in a gentle but effective manner. Brilliantly done. The only book we've read previously by Michael Catchpool is his *Where There's a Bear, There's Trouble!*, which was (and still is) universally adored by all three of my girls as toddlers. (Susanna, at five, still loves it and I still see the older two pulling it out of the bookshelf to read themselves on occasion.) Alison Jay's deceptively simple, gorgeous folk art illustrations pair perfectly with this story. The colors are so beautiful. My children delighted in the cloud shapes and the smiling hills. (See the one on the cover?) I have loved her art since I first saw it on the original hardcovers of Shannon Hale's Bayern series (*The Goose Girl* (Books of Bayern), *Enna Burning* (Books of Bayern) and *River Secrets* (The Books of Bayern)). Click on the links to see the original covers.) Bottom line: This book was definitely worth the purchase and I know it will be read again and again in our house. I nominated this book for the 2012 CYBILS in the Fiction Picture Book category.

Enough is enough - you don't need to live in excess - is a message nearly everyone could stand to hear reiterated. I found the story a tiny bit stilted, but the images are simply beautiful and my 7-year old enjoys them also.

this book has such a good story to it. The pictures are great and it lets people know they can't always have what they want as in this book it made the earth all dry and brown, because of a King who wanted clothes from the clouds being spun by this boy. Great Book

I bought this book for Earth Day. My 2 and 4 year old boys seemed interested when i read the book to them, and I really enjoyed it. It delivers the very important message of conservation in a beautiful way, and there is a King, a Queen, and a princess, making it more of a familiar story, a fairy tail kind of thing, so the kids don't feel like they are getting a lecture. I loved it and will be getting this book as a gift for friends with kids! Great way to teach kids to not use more than what they need.

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