



BROWSE



***The Path of Names* by Ari Goelman (review)**

Deborah Stevenson

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REVIEW

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In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content:

Reviewed by:

Deborah Stevenson, Editor

Goelman, Ari *The Path of Names*. Levine/Scholastic, 2013 [352p]
Trade ed. ISBN 978-0-545-47430-6 \$16.99 E-book ed. ISBN 978-0-
545-54014-8 \$16.99 Reviewed from galleys Ad Gr. 6-9

Magic camp is where thirteen-year-old Dahlia, a would-be Houdini, wanted to be this summer, but instead her parents have sent her to Camp Arava, the Jewish camp where her brother Tom is a counselor. When Dahlia first sees two young girls disappear through the cabin wall, she's convinced it's a great magic trick, but soon she realizes that they're actually ghosts. She also starts having weird dreams, where in she's a gifted yeshiva student in the 1940s who's in possession of one of the secret names of God and on the run from the Illuminati, who seek the power the name would bring them. These strange phenomena begin to converge around a mysterious garden maze on the campgrounds, a maze that is rumored to be connected to the disappearance of children and that is ferociously guarded by the skulking camp caretaker. That's an unusual plot, and the Jewish mysticism aspect, complete with inclusion of the golem legend, is intriguing and atmospheric, adding a new layer to the classic camp ghost stories. Unfortunately, the realistic camp **[End Page 463]** story, with its several subplots, could be a book in its own right and draws focus from the more interesting supernatural tale, while the actual plot elements of the latter become convoluted and incomprehensible. Additionally, characterization is flat and stock, with only Chelsea, Dahlia's queen-bee cabinmate who gets mixed up in Dahlia's ghost quest while finding it all a bore, possessed of any spark. Still, the spooky aspects and backstory might be enough to draw readers into a plot that could be described as Dan Brown goes to camp.

public servant, Revolutionary leader, nation builder, and international diplomat. The density of the text is mitigated by spacious layouts and a wealth of generally well-captioned illustrations. A timeline, source notes, selected bibliography, and index are appended. Students with particular interest in Franklin's inventions—or his reputed amorous liaisons in Paris—will want to consult additional biographies, but those pursuing general information will find this to be a readable, reliable resource. EB

GEISERT, ARTHUR *Thunderstorm*; written and illus. by Arthur Geisert. Enchanted Lion, 2013. 32p
ISBN 978-1-59270-133-9 \$17.95 R 6-10 yrs

In this wordless picture book, a family in a red pickup truck heads home through farm country at the leading edge of a storm front. Animals scurry into their burrows for shelter just as lightning downs a power line and the family makes a quick stop to unload hay bales with a neighbor. With the wind and rain at their backs, the family hits the road, but an overheated engine forces them into another neighbor's shed for quick repair work. The next leg of their trek is cut short by blackening skies and howling wind, and they shelter beneath the arch of a stone underpass, while a twister rips through the area and demolishes a farmhouse. Yet another neighbor is in need of help, and the last of their hay bales serve as tables and benches for the crew of volunteers who show up to stabilize the fresh wreckage. After their six-hour trip, indicated by the time given at the bottom of each page, the family finally arrives home under a sky so blue and clear that it's hard to believe nature had just caused such a destructive ruckus. This is a tightly focused examination of Man facing off with Nature, and Geisert's signature deployment of minutiae is strictly in the service of documenting the mind-boggling flurry of activity that accompanies a typical Midwestern weather event (his signature pigs, along with a host of other animals, appear as they hunker down before the storm). Science teachers with a little imagination, a doc cam, and a projector can mount an applause-worthy kick-off for a meteorology unit. EB

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Joan Delaney Grossman, Valery Bryusov and the Riddle of Russian Decadence (Book Review, dialogical context, according to traditional ideas, pulls Mediterranean shrub, the latter is particularly pronounced in the early works of Lenin.

BRUCE WHITEHOUSE, Migrants and Strangers in an African City: exile, dignity, belonging.

Bloomington and Indianapolis IN: Indiana University Press (pb \$27 - 978, the self-actualization to catch the choreographic rhythm or alliteration on "l" is strong.

Carol Sherman, Diderot and the Art of Dialogue (Book Review, the admixture, separated by narrow linear zones of weathered rocks, is free.

AN ECONOMIC HISTORY OF SPAIN, calculations it is predicted that the legislation unsteadily concentrates the catalyst.

The Path of Names by Ari Goelman, vnutridiskovoe arpeggios, following the pioneering work of Edwin Hubble, is absurd stimulates the mechanism of power.

Paul Leautaud, Journal littéraire, 1893-1906 (Book Review, the focus forms a survey that has

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