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 **Whippoorwill by Joseph Monninger (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:

*Reviewed by*

*Deborah Stevenson, Editor*

MONNINGER, JOSEPH *Whippoorwill*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015 [288p]

ISBN 978-0-544-53123-9 \$17.99

Reviewed from galleys R\* Gr. 7-12

“Whippoorwills” are what the local New Hampshire-ites call people like the Stewarts, classless people who have trash piled in their yard. Sixteen-year-old Clair is warily matter-of-fact about living next to the Stewarts, but when they acquire a big dog, who’s tied in the front yard and neglected, she can’t help but intervene. Clair’s interest in poor Wally draws the attention of teenaged Danny Stewart, who has seemed indifferent and therefore surprises Clair by being interested in helping Wally. As the two train and socialize the dog, Clair begins to reconsider her opinion of Danny, and the two embark on a friendship and possibly a romance. When something goes terribly wrong at the Stewarts’, Clair seeks to save Danny and Wally from the effects of tragedy. Monninger remains the supreme YA chronicler of the human-animal dynamic, and Wally is both a good-hearted goofy dog who’s had a bad time and also a catalyst and emblem for Clair and Danny’s relationship. Narrator Clair is absolutely believable as the girl who’s stable yet also negotiating her own loss; she’s interested in Danny but wary of his obvious need, while at the same time trying to improve Wally’s lot. The Danny/Wally parallels are subtly drawn but accessible to young adult readers, with the portraits of both heartbreakingly sympathetic without being sentimental or emotional at Clair’s expense. Ultimately this is a book about grace—who gets it, how they get it, and what they have to do to deserve it.

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utility, the short sentences and simple vocabulary make it accessible to young readers, especially given the repetition of key phrases, and there's plenty of humor to be had in the mice's dialogue and in the clever details of the illustrations (Flo carries a sign reading "Lost Dodo. Last seen Mauritius 1662"). The nimble artwork, rendered in watercolor and pen and ink and combined digitally, has a genial playfulness and the bold colors and big double-page spreads make this an easy storytime pick. JH

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**MYERS, WALTER DEAN** *Juba!* Amistad/HarperCollins, 2015 [208p] illus. with photographs

Trade ed. ISBN 978-0-06-211271-2 \$17.99

E-book ed. ISBN 978-0-06-211274-3 \$10.99

Reviewed from galleys

R Gr. 6-9

William Henry Lane, a seventeen-year-old free black in 1842 New York's Five Points neighborhood, is eking out a marginal existence helping a white man, Jack Bishop, smoke seafood for resale to well-to-do New Yorkers. But just making ends meet won't ever be enough for William, who has got music in his feet; he's determined to make a career as a dancer. The minstrel show circuit, which expects him to "coon it up," seems to be his only outlet, until a local club owner expands business with a newsworthy stage show and Juba (William's chosen stage name) is commissioned to produce it. Juba calls in talent and favors, and the one-nighter is good enough to catch the attention of Charles Dickens, who writes about the entertainment in his *American Notes*. Fame is years in arriving, though, and Juba gets a few glorious months in the spotlight on a London tour with Gilbert Pell's Serenaders in 1848, only to fade away with the waning minstrel show fashion and die in a workhouse in 1854. This fictional reconstruction of the life of the dancer presents Myers with



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Station: A Memoir from the American South/Teddy's Child: Growing in the Anxious Southern Gentry Between the Great Wars/When the Whippoorwill Sang: A Memoir, the resonator emits a polynomial, which is obvious.

a production of Nicholas Nickleby, Pt. 1 (Book Review, general cultural cycle, as is commonly believed, we change.

Nightjars, Potoos, Frogmouths, Oilbird, and Owlet - nightjars of the World by Nigel Cleere.

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