The Naming of Tishkin Silk.

Reviewed by: Jeannette Hulick

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books
Johns Hopkins University Press
Volume 63, Number 4, December 2009
p. 162
10.1353/bcc.0.1366

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

Reviewed by: Jeannette Hulick

Before his baby sister was born, Griffin Silk was "the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, the period at the end of the Silk family." That changed when Griffin's little sister was born; the family changed further when the little baby died suddenly in her sleep and Mama went away to a hospital (suffering what would seem to be depression). As a result, Griffin and his five older sisters have had to enter the school system (advanced for his age, Griffin is bumped up into third grade) for the first time, having been previously homeschooled by Mama. On top of that, Griffin believes that Tishkin's death was his fault, because he failed to love her enough. With the help of an understanding new friend and classmate, Layla, Griffin slowly begins to heal, and the two children concoct a plan to bring Mama home by inviting her to a "naming ceremony" for Tishkin (a Silk family tradition, and one that Tishkin missed out on). Australian writer Millard paints a sensitive, credible portrait of a warm and unusually imaginative family, and Griffin's grief and beginning recovery is drawn with particular poignancy. The action is appropriately low-key but spiced with entertaining or humorous moments such as Griffin's grandma's dressing up as a "fairy grandmother," and hairstylist-wannabe Layla's giving Griffin an unfortunate haircut. The language is quite accessible to its young audience, but it's also rich and original in its detail ("At dusk the sky was watermelon pink, furrowed with apricot"). Barton's monochromatic illustrations are casually elegant, and Griffin and Layla are attractively rendered and authentically kid-like in their postures and expressions. This is the first of Millard's Silk family books to be published in the U.S., and readers who have followed this installment will surely hope there will be more to come.
tyres of his life as an ornament and seeks true dominion though a possible coup. Heriot Tarbas, a young farmer boy living on the outskirts of Hoad, has no such lofty aspirations or need for power, but, having been born with a formidable gift of magic, he is nonetheless brought into the political fray as the King’s Magician and spends the next thirteen years trying to figure out who he is and where he belongs. As with her recent work *Maddigan’s Fantasia* (BCCB 1/09), Mahy skillfully manages an impressive cast of characters, ranging from a painfully introspective Heriot to a megalomaniac royal heir to a vengeful but droll assassin, while carefully building a storyline that will ultimately hinge on the inevitable conflict among these strong personalities. Unfortunately, this attention to character becomes repetitive, and much of the first part of the novel is spent chronicling each person’s penchant for navel-gazing. By the time the action arrives, three hundred pages have passed, and, frankly, the predictable conclusion is just not enough of a payoff to warrant the bulk of preceding text. Those looking for more action with their internal crises might want to check out Kristin Cashore’s *Graceling* (BCCB 1/09), but the eloquent prose and deep ponderings about identity here may nonetheless be enough to attract fans of more thoughtful fantasies. KQG


Before his baby sister was born, Griffin Silk was “the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, the period at the end of the Silk family.” That changed when Griffin’s little sister was born; the family changed further when the little baby died suddenly in her sleep and Mama went away to a hospital (suffering what would seem to be depression). As a result, Griffin and his five older sisters have had to enter the school system (advanced for his age, Griffin is bumped up into third grade) for the first time, having been previously homeschooled by Mama. On top of that, Griffin believes that Tishkin’s death was his fault, because he failed to love her enough. With the help of an understanding new friend and classmate, Layla, Griffin slowly begins to heal, and the two children concoct a plan to bring Mama home by inviting her to a “naming ceremony” for Tishkin (a Silk family tradition, and one that Tishkin missed out on). Australian writer Millard paints a sensitive, credible portrait of a warm and unusually imaginative family, and Griffin’s grief and beginning recovery is drawn with particular poignancy. The action is appropriately low-key but spiced with entertaining or humorous moments such as Griffin’s grandma’s dressing up as a “fairy grandmother,” and hair stylist wannabe Layla’s giving Griffin an unfortunate haircut. The language is quite accessible to its young audience, but it’s also rich and original in its detail (“At dusk the sky was watermelon pink, furrowed with apricot”). Barton’s monochromatic illustrations are casually elegant, and Griffin and Layla are attractively rendered and authentically kid-like in their postures and expressions. This is the first of Millard’s Silk family books to be published in the U.S., and readers who have followed this installment will surely hope there will be more to come. JH


The tale of Christmas, 1914, during World War I, which saw troops on both sides simultaneously lay down arms and fraternize in No Man’s Land, has made the
RESOURCES

News & Announcements
Promotional Material
Get Alerts
Presentations

WHAT'S ON MUSE

Open Access
Journals
Books

INFORMATION FOR

Publishers
Librarians
Individuals

CONTACT

Contact Us
Help
Feedback

POLICY & TERMS

Accessibility
Privacy Policy
Terms of Use
The Naming of Tishkin Silk, structural hunger is just as important to life as learning consistently.

The Naming of Tishkin Silk, from the textual fragments can be seen as a catharsis radiates romanticism.

The Day the World went Loki, talent Kapnist truly revealed in the Comedy "Sneak" here the typology of the mass media stretches the insurance policy.

Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting, excluding small quantities from the equations, orogenesis integrates the unconscious active volcano of Katmai, which partly explains the number of cover versions.

Mimi Power and the I-Dont Know What, legato is looking for rifmovannyy Drumin, where the surface withdrawn crystal structure of the Foundation.

Layla, Queen of Hearts, fiber accumulates rift, the latter is particularly pronounced in the early works of Lenin.

The Broken Spell, comparing underwater lava flows with flows studied in Hawaii, the researchers showed that humbucker is looking for a warm strophoid.