

The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse

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The Boy is kind, but lonely. Out of the scary and uncertain wilderness, he meets the Mole. The Mole is friendly and daring despite its small size, and the two wonder about delicious cakes and the larger gifts in the world. Along comes the Fox, who is wary and unforgiving because of the things he has suffered through in his life. But by an act of mercy and a risk, he decides to join the Boy and the Mole, and he follows them silently and loyally. Then, the trio meets the Horse, a magnificent and wise creature, who teaches them of love and strength. The four friends learn and share simple insights with each other, as they grow and traverse far and difficult lands together.

This novel is for all ages. It contains beautiful sketches and drawings that children may love, but the deep and wise words may be more understood and appreciated by older readers and even adults.

The novel consists of a many series of pictures and drawings of these four characters. The text is hand-written in a lovely cursive-like script that may be considered a little difficult to read for young children. There is little narration and description except for the small and yet empowering conversations and dialogues between the four characters. For example, when the mole asks the boy what he wants to be when he grows up, the boy answers, "Kind". When the boy asks the Horse what is the bravest thing he has ever said, the Horse replies, "Help". Together, the four talk about feeling lost, and yet sometimes the concept of "home" doesn't always have to be a place. Among these short sentences amounts a great wealth of wisdom relevant to everyday life, regardless of our age or walks of life. The author writes in the introduction that we may often see ourselves in these four characters. Many times, we can relate to their pains, as well as their strengths and weaknesses. But when the characters are together, they bring the best out of each other, and learn to see their faults as gifts.

I felt moved by this book. The writing was simple and yet meaningful. I think a lot of times we get distracted by the many complicated and crazy things that come at us in life, but never take a second to consider the smaller yet still important things in life, like being brave and sharing kindness. This book is humbling and helps remind me of the many things that we overlook and disregard in life. This would honestly be a really lovely gift to give to someone. While I was reading this, I was actually thinking that it might be a wonderful gift to give to some of my old teachers from years ago. For some reason, I have this inclination that it would be a great gift for an adult to read, but if you give it to a child, I think they will also grow to appreciate it later in their life as well.

Recommended Titles:

The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

The Little Blue Kite by Mark Z. Danielewski

East by Edith Pattou

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein

Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein