



The Moonlight Meeting: The Nocturnals

Tracey Hecht, Rumur Dowling, Waymond Singleton (Illustrations)

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The Moonlight Meeting: The Nocturnals Details

Date : Published September 12th 2017 by Fabled Films Press

ISBN : 9781944020156

Author : Tracey Hecht , Rumur Dowling , Waymond Singleton (Illustrations)

Format : Hardcover 64 pages

Genre : Animals, Childrens, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Moonlight Meeting: The Nocturnals for online ebook

Ryan says

I like that the author and publisher decided to write beginning chapter books for this series. This was short but fun. The full color illustrations are great, and the story line pleasing. Much better than Dick and Jane. It serves as an introduction to first time readers of who the Nocturnal's are, and what makes them Nocturnal.

Cindy Hudson says

Young children can find inspiration to read through Grow & Read, an early reader program that spins off from The Nocturnals series. The first book, The Moonlight Meeting by Tracey Hecht & Rumur Dowling, introduces the main characters while also revealing a bit about their real animal characteristics.

Tobin is a shy pangolin who lets out a stinky gas when he's startled. Bismark is a brash sugar glider who's a bit aggressive and quick to take offense. Dawn is a fox, a thinker who comes up with solutions to conflict. The three meet and figure out a way they can all be happy sharing one juicy pomelo.

The Grow & Read program was created under the supervision of reading specialists and that shows in the way the book is structured. It lists a level on the front that corresponds generally to an age group, and there's light copy accompanied by illustrations on every page. Chapters are short, and the story includes well known words as well as more challenging ones to increase vocabulary.

The Moonlight Meeting story is cute and the whimsical illustrations by Waymond Singleton should help budding readers follow along and be encouraged to learn new words as they turn pages. Fun facts at the end should satisfy the interests of kids who are drawn to nonfiction.

I highly recommend The Moonlight Meeting for readers aged 6 to 8 and their parents.

The publisher provided me with a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Leah says

In The Moonlight Meeting, Tobin, a sweet pangolin, Bismark, a loud-mouthed sugar glider, and Dawn, a serious fox, introduce their nighttime world to early readers. The story emphasizes friendship, sharing, and humor. Includes bonus animal glossary.

This is a really cute book. Tobin, Bismark and Dawn are fun characters with vastly different personalities. Altogether they make a good group and it is nice to see their interactions.

It is an early reader that was a bit too simple for my 6 year old niece but having new to her animals was nice. The glossary was especially nice since she could find out more about each animal (and honestly I had no idea what a pangolin was either). I didn't know that there was a Nocturnals series. We will definitely be looking

into it.

*I received this through the GoodReads First Reads program under no obligation for a review. All the opinions above are mine alone.

Mary says

An Early Reader's Level 2 book for Grades 1-2, *The Moonlight Meeting* recounts the beginning of the friendship between 3 Australian mammals: Tobin, a pangolin; Bismark, a Sugar-Glider; and Dawn, a fox. Hecht has created a cute story and I learned something! A fun facts bonus section at the end of the book explains more about the real animals upon which the book is based.

Ms. Yingling says

Copy received from the publisher through Young Adult Books Central.

In this "Grow and Read" level two early reader book, the characters from Nocturnals World meet each other. Bismark is a quirky and spunky sugar glider, Tobin is a hungry and frightened pangolin, and Dawn is a quiet and helpful fox. When Tobin sees a pomelo on the ground, he claims it for his only, only to be yelled at by Bismark, who is perched in the tree from which the fruit fell. Bismark accuses Tobin of stealing the fruit, which hurts Tobin's feelings, since he thought the fruit was just lying on the ground for anyone to take. Luckily, Dawn happens along with a solution, which bonds the group together, especially when they realize their commonalities. A short description of the different animals, as well as one of nocturnal animals, is at the end of the book.

Beginning readers can go through many books, and it's good to find ones on a variety of topics. Young readers who enjoy animals will find the descriptions of the animals to be amusing, especially the pangolin's habit of releasing smelly gas when it is threatened. The additional descriptions at the end of the book might spark more research, particularly about the natural habitats of the animals depicted.

The full color illustrations are quirky and funny, and the ratio of text to illustration is similar to the page set up of I Can Read or Step Into Reading books. The story lines about sharing and understanding the background and motivation of others are timely and important, and the humor of Bismark and his antics will draw young readers into the story.

This is the first book in the Grow & Read program. Fountas and Pinnell leveled it at an L and the Lexile is 480L. While most of the vocabulary is easy, some words like "delicious" and even the name Bismark might cause early readers some difficulty. The pictures of the fox and pangolin are fairly good, but the sugar glider does not look very appealing.

Stacy Fetters says

Thanks to Fabled Films Press for a galley!

Tobin finds a sweet, delicious pomelo and goes to take it. Bismark cried thief and an argument starts. Dawn comes along and listens to both of their stories.

As they discuss what belongs to who, they all find out that they are all nocturnal animals and that they can all be friends. A decision is made and all is well in the night.

This was such a cute read. Just because we all look different doesn't mean that we aren't similar in what and who we are/do.

Listen, talk, and then you decide. Maybe share what others don't have even if it's just knowledge.

Lauren Kramer says

Tobin the pangolin awakens one evening to the smell of a sweet pomelo. Following the scent, he reaches the golden fruit and prepares to take a bite. The pangolin soon realizes that he is not alone.

A strange creature leaps down from the trees above claiming that Tobin is a thief. Feeling threatened, Tobin releases a smelly gas. The two begin to quarrel when the bushes suddenly start to rustle. Could the pair be in even bigger trouble than they thought?

I love this first installment in The Nocturnals Grow and Read Early Readers Program series. Tracey Hecht and Rumur Dowling's characters are enchanting. I especially love how each character has his/her own distinct personality. I definitely felt a wide range of emotions while reading this story. My heart ached for poor Tobin. I laughed at Bismark and I could totally relate to Dawn's serenity and wisdom.

Waymond Singleton's illustrations are truly captivating. Each creature is beyond adorable and has his/her own specific facial expressions. While the story takes place at night, Singleton makes wonderful use of white space and does not make the illustrations too dark.

This is a wonderful read for children ages 5-9. They will fall in love with the kindly characters and the mysteriousness of a nighttime setting. I cannot wait to read the next book in The Nocturnals series.

Maranda Russell says

I won a copy of this from a Goodreads giveaway. It is a cute little children's book. I like how it features animals that aren't normally featured in children's literature (the pangolin and the sugar glider). The information about the animals at the end was nice too.

Marianne Donovan says

"The Moonlight Meeting: The Nocturnals" by Tracey Hecht is an illustrated chapter book for children in grades 1-3 that tells the story of three nocturnal Australian mammals. In the story Tobin, a pangolin, finds a pomelo that Bismark, a Sugar-Glider, has also spied. As they are arguing over who should get the fruit, Dawn, a fox, wanders into the mix and wisely divides the fruit into thirds so they can all share it. It is a cute story about friendship, sharing and introduces animals from Australia. The back of the book also has some factual information on the animals depicted in the book. I like it when books offer children more than just a

way to learn to read and entertainment, and this book provides that by exposing readers to the concept of nocturnal, expanding their typical book animals and offering a moral lesson on sharing and friendship. The story is a little overly simplistic, but very age appropriate.

Kate Olson says

My 10 year-old son wrote this part of the review! He gives this book 4 STARS.

"I liked this book because Tobin and Bismark are fighting over who gets the pomelos, and Bismark thought that Tobin was a thief. Then Dawn came out and split the pomelo in 3 slices and they each got a slice. They worked together to solve the problem."

As a school librarian, I give this 3.5 stars.

It's a cute early reader story that introduces younger readers to the characters in the Nocturnals series, which my 11 yo daughter reviewed for me last spring and really enjoyed. The text is simplistic in this story, which is intentional, and the illustrations are cute. I recommend it for independent reading for grades 1 and 2 and a read aloud for PreK and K.

Thanks to Fabled Films Press for the review copy of this title!

Micah says

This Nocturnals adventure has totally captivated my son, who is just getting into chapter books, and he has been reading it repeatedly for a week now. 'The Moonlight Meeting' has beautiful illustrations, short and punchy chapters, loads of humor, and a focus on animals you don't typically see in children's fiction. (I've now spent about an hour showing photos and videos of pangolins to my son.) Fabled Films Press and The Nocturnals authors putting out excellent and engaging children's fiction, and 'The Moonlight Meeting' is no exception.

Stephanie Bange says

Hecht, the author of The Nocturnals (chapter book series for upper elementary readers), and Rumur Dowling broaden the audience for the intrepid Nocturnal trio of Tobin (a pangolin), Bismark (a sugar slider) and Dawn (a fox), set at the beginning of their friendship one moonlit night. The three characters' personality traits are evident from the get-go: Tobin passes stinky gas when he is afraid, Bismark demonstrates bravado, and Dawn plays peacemaker. When the trio realizes they have the commonality of activity at night and sleep during the day... Bam! -- Instant friendship. Told simply using a beginning reader format, sentences are short and structured and action is limited. Liberal use of artwork by Waymond Singleton supplants description and allows Hecht and Dowling to move the story ahead using dialog. Artwork is dark and at times muddy looking reminding the reader that the story is set at night. Singleton's efforts at linking the "look" for the three friends with the artwork in the fictional series is good. The first in the Grow & Read Series, this one is

a strong blend of reading sight words and decoding using phonics -- very useful as a beginning reader.

Shana Hollowell says

I am excited to have won this book in a Goodreads Giveaway. This is a great children's book about three nocturnal animals, a pangolin, sugar glider, and red fox, that meet by chance one night and become friends. The animals are relatable, as the authors have given them charming personalities and mannerisms. The storyline has humor cleverly woven into it, which will entertain and keep a child's interest. The illustrations were fantastic. The illustrator was able to match the animals' postures and facial expressions with their personalities. Even though the setting of this story takes place at night, the illustrator used deep purples, deep blues, and greens in a way to not make the pictures too dark so it is easy to read as a bedtime story. This book is geared towards children in first and second grades. It has a few unfamiliar words, such as pangolin, pomelo, incorrecto, falso, mi bella, taloned, brigade, etc., that may be difficult for younger children to read and understand; however, the authors provide facts about the animals and define some of the words in the back of the book.

Natalie {I'd So Rather Be Reading} says

Anything related to The Nocturnal series by Tracey Hecht will hands down be the best! When I first discovered that The Nocturnals was starting an easy reader set I was thrilled! My youngest little monster has just started easy readers and when I showed him The Moonlight Meeting he was excited to read about new animals, I mean who doesn't want to read about a pangolin?

Said monster is not ready to review on camera so I passed it to Macy Kate because she (and Mrs. Leger) are our Nocturnal connoisseurs. They LOVE all things Nocturnals, I mean, Macy Kate sets her Dawn the Fox stuffed animal on her desk at school (for good luck of course) and Ms. Leger's classes study every single odd animal that makes an appearance in the books.

I am just so excited that young audiences can now get in on the action and learn about odd, unique animals and get to know Dawn the Fox! Although, I am partial to Bismark, the sugar glider.

Watch Macy Kate's vlog [HERE](#)

Full Review [HERE](#)

Crystal ☆ Lost in Storyland says

It's been almost a year since I was first introduced to The Nocturnals. Some of favorite books growing up were books featured animals in prominent roles (e.g. Animal Ark, Hank the Cowdog, Warriors, Guardians of Ga'Hoole, to name a few).

What makes The Nocturnals unique is that it introduces Australian wildlife. Throughout The Nocturnals series, I've enjoyed learning more about the different wildlife that populate Australian forests. This adaptation for younger readers is my new Nocturnals favorite!

WHAT I LIKED

Full-Color Illustrations

The full-color illustrations bring the characters to life. I enjoyed seeing the characters' expressions and body language paired with their dialogue. They are adorable. (Especially those of Bismark. He's such a character.)

Lively Dialogue

Partly because this book targets a younger audience and partly because this book narrows down its focus to Tobin, Bismark, and Dawn's first meeting, more expression is put into the dialogue and character expressions. The pacing was rhythmic and made for an enjoyable read. I can easily imagine this book being reader aloud to entertain a younger reader (and having the younger reader read it back or join in on certain words/phrases).

A Book on Friendship

From the beginning, it's clear that this book is about making friends. I like how each of the protagonists has his or her unique personality. It shows how friends do not necessarily need to be alike in order to be friends but that friendship is about mutually intending to and taking action to be friends.

Fun Facts

At the end of the book, there is a section explaining what type of animals are Tobin, Bismark, and Dawn as well as what is a pomelo. I appreciate having this information to give me a better understanding of the protagonists. (And it's the type of information I would have geeked over as a kid, being the animal lover that I was.)

WHAT I DISLIKED

Where's Book Two?

To be honest, there wasn't anything that I disliked about this book. While I did have some issues with the original book form which this story was taken, the problems have been smoothed over for this one. The characters didn't feel superficial, and Bismark's over-the-top personality works for this shorter story.

If anything, I loved this book and want to read the next one right now!

FINAL THOUGHTS

The Moonlight Meeting is a highly enjoyable read featuring endearing characters and lively dialogue that are brought to life through rhythmic pacing and animated, full-color illustrations. Those who enjoy books with animal protagonists will especially enjoy this book for beginning readers. I highly recommend this book and look forward to reading the next Nocturnals release!

For more of my reviews, visit my blog [Imaginary Reads](#).
