



Bird Cat Dog

Lee Nordling , Meritxell Bosch (Illustrations)

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Look out! A bird escapes from its cage and flies out the window. A napping cat wakes up hungry and tries to catch a snack. A dog stands guard in his backyard, ready to bark at anything that comes near. Follow the tales of three animals on one wild afternoon.

In this clever wordless comic, each animal is a hero in its own story and all three stories are connected. Lee Nordling's simple storytelling engages young readers and provides a gateway into understanding multiple perspectives and points of view.

Bird Cat Dog Details

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Author : Lee Nordling , Meritxell Bosch (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Bird Cat Dog for online ebook

McKinley says

3 stories or 1 story from 3 perspectives in 3 rows top to bottom of page

Erica says

This is pretty much the story of my backyard. Well, not the bobcat and wolf part, but the rest? Yes. This happens in my yard daily.

It's cute but a bit too repetitive for my tastes. That would be my Tastes As A Reading Adult, not my tastes as a person who sits around reading books to children. I don't do that. I suspect people who DO do that will find this story much more palatable to their tastes.

Each animal is the hero of its own story - as we all should strive to be - and they tell you this on the endpapers. Canary, kittycat, dog, hawk, bobcat, wolf, and squirrel. All heroes of their stories. How can this be? That's one of the talking points of this book in case you are having a book group discussion with second-graders.

Let me just tell you that the canary is a moron. This is how my cats are so easily able to catch birds and eat them. Birds make poor decisions, thus the derogatory term "bird brain". The squirrel is highly realistic, though.

The wolf, not so much. I'm not sure why a wolf would follow a dog home just to have a confrontation. It should have been a coyote, really. Do you know what coyotes do? One will leave the band to go undercover and befriend a neighborhood dog. They'll play together for weeks and be BFFs and then one night, the coyote is all, "Hey, dude, I know where there's a great party! Let's jump the fence and I'll take you!" just like in movies about high schoolers. And the dog is all willing because he's a dog and dogs are easy to talk into things and also because the dog and the coyote are BFFs by now so of course he's all, "Hrr hrrr hrr, ok! Let's go!" and the dog follows the coyote off into the rock pile and then the rest of the band of coyotes all jump out and they kill the dog.

So the lesson here is that coyotes are really neat animals and fun to watch but never EVER trust them because they will turn on you in a heartbeat. This is the same lesson you're supposed to learn about popular kids in movies about high schoolers.

That's why the wolf in this story should have been a coyote.

But maybe it wasn't a wolf at all, maybe it was just a wild dog, like maybe a black lab/German shepherd mix that was abandoned and went feral. Maybe it followed the collared dog home because it wanted a place to live and a family to love.

At any rate, I got bored with the Nature vs Domesticated chasing. All three stories ended up being the same and the message that I got out of it is that it is always safer to stay home in your suburban neighborhood because that is where you belong. Leave everything beyond the fence to the wilds. I like that message when it pertains to development but not when it's used as a fear tactic to enable agoraphobia.

There's a chance I read too much into this book with no words.

Allie says

I like this graphic novel in principle, but it left me wanting. I won't hesitate to recommend this, because the different ways of reading the story are really fun and kid-friendly.

Ian Wood says

This is the complete review as it appears at my blog dedicated to reading, writing (no 'rithmatic!), movies, & TV. Blog reviews often contain links which are not reproduced here, nor will updates or modifications to the blog review be replicated here. Graphic and children's novels reviewed on the blog will generally have some images from the book's interior, which are not reproduced here.

Note that I don't really do stars. To me a novel is either worth reading or it isn't. I can't rate a novel three-fifths worth reading! The only reason I've relented and started putting stars up there is to credit the good ones, which were being unfairly uncredited. So, all you'll ever see from me is a five-star or a one-star (since no stars isn't a rating, unfortunately).

I rated this novel WORTHY!

WARNING! MAY CONTAIN UNHIDDEN SPOILERS! PROCEED AT YOUR OWN RISK!

This is part of the Three Story series, and it delighted me with the play on words and the organization as a three-tiered story, each of which is told in parallel. The story is related both vertically, and horizontally and simultaneously, so you can either read the entire story of one character by reading each page, but only across the top, middle, or bottom, or you can read it down each page in the more conventional fashion and follow all three stories as they unfold. Since each tale is so intimately connected with the other two, I chose to follow the story conventionally.

I think kids will love this. I know I would have been fascinated by it at that age. Okay, I admit, I still am enamored of the way it's told. The artwork is excellent - simple enough to make the right point, yet artfully drawn and colored nonetheless, and it's full of motion and action. In some ways it reminds me of the old film strips I was very much engaged by as a young kid.

The bird gets the strip across the top of the page, the cat gets the middle, and the dog the bottom, which I guess makes it the underdog.... I don't know if this was organized alphabetically, or by relative agility or what, but that's how it is! The bird is in the catbird seat as the main protagonist, getting loose and letting loose, and out the window it flies into the yard, then to the nearby woods, stirring things up and antagonizing the cat which in turn brings in the dog. Each of these three has not only to contend with each other, but with other animals in the neighborhood, such as another cat, another dog, a predatory bird and a squirrel.

Having said that, there's no 'Tom and Jerry' violence here, just playing and chasing, the way kids themselves love to do. The whole thing quickly dissolves into a rather slapstick chase in and out of everywhere, reminiscent of the old silent movie chases, and of the Marx Brothers. And just like with Harpo Marx, there isn't a word spoken (well animals don't speak, y'know?!). It's all done in images and I loved it. Your kids will too.

Linda B says

This concept following how one thing causes another was good for my granddaughter. While she didn't really want to follow it with me, she wanted a Barbie story, I still think it was fun and a book worth reading.

Racheal says

WTF was the point of that? I think all these wordless stories are making me grumpy.

Nancy Kotkin says

Concept & story line: 3 stars

Illustrations: 3 stars

The format is the most interesting part of this full-color wordless children's graphic novel. The three rows of panels on each page can be read through separately and each represent a different POV. But the pages can also be read sequentially in the ordinary fashion, providing the full story.

Each of the three stories have a full arc, but they are very similar to one another, and all are repetitive.

David Schaafsma says

Such potential in this concept to have three parallel stories we read on each page as we go. Ray Fawkes has experimental graphic novels, The People Inside, One Soul, Richard McGuire's Here, all experiment with simultaneity in narration. These dudes mighta looked at some of that work. . . Disappointing.

Jen says

Creative design where you can read across panels and follow the story of one of the animals or you can read each page top to bottom and integrate the three stories.

Tiffany Shafapay says

This wordless graphic novel is one of a kind. We follow the day to day lives of a bird, cat and dog all leaving among each other. Its interesting to interpret the antics they all get involved with and gives kids a chance to get involved in the book they are reading. Parents and teachers should have their kids narrate the series of

events and ask them to predict what will happen between the animals next to get them to problem solve and practice their critical thinking skills in a fun way. the images are colorful and captivating but also follow color themes for each animal which can be something to point out to students.

nimrodiel says

I really liked this book. It's the same story told from three entirely different points of view. I loved that it is a wordless story. I loved that you can read it more than one way. I think that this is one of those books that both young children and adults can appreciate for different reasons. I really liked the artist's style of illustration in this book as well.

As a teacher of pre-readers I know how important wordless books are both because there are only pictures and because they invite the reader to come up with a narrative for what is happening in the images on the page. I think that this book works well if you are reading the individual viewpoints of the bird, the dog, or the cat as they have their own adventures. I think it also works well if you read the entire story, combining the viewpoints. I also enjoyed that bird, cat, and dog wander in and out of the other's story viewpoints and affect each others adventures.

Andréa says

Such a clever idea, to tell a story from multiple points of view all at once. The layout enables you to read the full story straight through or to focus on an individual character and follow only them through the story. The lack of text enables *everyone* to enjoy the book, regardless of language or reading ability... but it also allows readers to interpret events their own way.

The illustrations are excellent, full of bright-colors. The animals are so expressive that it almost feels as though there are words describing the action, you can read it so clearly on their faces.

I hope there will be more three-story books to come from Nordling & Bosch.

Note: I received a digital galley of this book through NetGalley.

Bekka says

Thanks to Graphic Universe and Netgalley.com for early access to this title.

This is a cute wordless book! I liked the way the story was told - you could either follow each animal's individual adventure, or "read" them all together. Each animal (bird, cat and dog) has a real adventure! I liked the illustrations and the way each animal's story was told in a different color tone. I think kids would really enjoy this book!

karen says

BIRD!!

CAT!!

DOG!!

this is a cute little graphic novel that is all pictures and no words, so it is appropriate for any age (perhaps not for babies a few hours old, but you get me), and for speakers of any language. it is the great equalizer.

it follows three creatures on the adventures of their day: a bird, a cat, and a dog. (viz., title). the stories run atop one another on each page in concurrent narratives, with some overlap as the animals cover the same ground and their stories intersect. the reader can opt to read each story separately, following one storyline to the end before flipping (or scrolling) back to follow the next one, or it can be read page by page, top to bottom. my advice is to read it page by page, which is how i "read" it the second time through. i personally thought it worked better that way, because of all the echoes of experiences between the stories and the way they encroach upon and blend into each other. but you do as you wish, this is YOUR reading experience.

in the stories, there are several parallel experiences: an initial escape/exploration, a meeting up with something bigger that wants to eat our hero (or something smaller that our hero wants to eat), encountering and fighting another member of the hero's own species, evasion, and a return home.

it's a cute little book, and while i think the illustrations skew a little younger-reader, it's an interesting way to tell a story, and i think it will appeal to older fans of graphic novels for that novelty alone.

i was intrigued enough to want to check out nordling's earlier book - The Bramble, which looks like that perfect combination of cute and creepy. i'll let you know...

Jessica says

A cute wordless story about a bird, a cat, and a dog told in three separate parts. It can be read across with each character's story being followed or all at once to watch how the characters expand into one another's space and story. Each animal is the hero of their own story, so watching the stories flutter into and away from one another is an interesting exercise.

Didn't impress me much, but I'm not a huge reader of books for young children. It was certainly cute and appropriate for readers of all ages. The art was well done with different colors for each character's portion, it just wasn't complicated enough for me, I guess. It didn't leave me feeling anything - just "eh, that was a

book". I'd recommend it for young readers, even those who don't know how to read yet (though hopefully those who do know how to turn pages nicely). It would also make a good exercise for someone just learning to read comics, or tell stories of their own.

I received a digital galley of this book through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.
