



Boat of Dreams

Rogério Coelho

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How does a boy come to live alone in an apparently deserted city? Are they separated by distance or by time? Does the man dream the boy? Does the boy dream the man? Is a blank paper in a floating bottle an invitation to imagine our futures? Is the man's flying boat an encouragement to the boy to dream? Are the man and the boy the same person—the boy dwelling in the man's memory? Is a message in a bottle the earthbound dreams of the elderly? Is a flying boat the unconstrained dreams of the young? This wordless, many-layered 80-page picture book invites all these interpretations and more. The intricately detailed illustrations reveal new wonders with each viewing. Neither children nor adults will ever tire of this wonderful testament to imagination, memory, and dreams.

Boat of Dreams Details

Date : Published January 31st 2017 by Tilbury House Publishers
ISBN : 9780884485285
Author : Rogério Coelho
Format : Hardcover 80 pages
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From Reader Review Boat of Dreams for online ebook

Nancy Kotkin says

Story concept: 5 stars

Art: 5 stars

The plot of this wordless graphic novel can be interpreted in various ways. I believe the pet bird is helping the old man reconnect with a lost part of himself, by encouraging him to draw again, and the boy he embraces is a youthful representation of himself, minus the burdens of self-doubt. Coelho's quote on the back of the book supports this theory.

But I think a child is more likely to conclude that the boy is the old man's grandson who takes a magical voyage to visit him. And that is okay too. One of the benefits of this book is that it teaches readers to become comfortable with open-ended narrative.

The art is stunning. Sort of a cross between Lane Smith and Eliza Wheeler's Grudge Keeper, maybe with a bit of Shaun Tan thrown in. But that description doesn't begin to do it justice. You should really see this book for yourself.

Kate says

The illustrations are simply gorgeous!

Edward Sullivan says

A lush, dreamy, beautifully nuanced wordless tale imported from Brazil.

Juliana Lee says

A boy alone in a city and an old man alone on an island share a dream. Is it the same dream? The same person? The same boat? It could be perhaps two different people who are connected by a drawing of a boat and their own dreams. You can decide for yourself, when you take the 80 page wordless journey for yourself.

Grapeseed22 says

Boat of dreams is a very beautiful book. The illustrations are wonderful. Full of art and beauty, Boat of dreams is a great tale. ?

Mischenko says

To see this and other wordless picture book reviews, please visit www.readrantrockandroll.com

Boat of Dreams by Rogério Coelho is an illustrated book with no words. The book, in my mind, sent many messages and I wasn't truly sure what was happening even at the end. The reader is left to draw their own conclusion, but is it all just a dream?

The illustrations were fantastic and my favorite was the communication between the man and his pet seagull.

I'm amazed at how powerful this book is and it left me quite emotional.

Children will love flipping the pages to see what comes next in the characters adventures, but this book can be enjoyed by anyone.

The author's note on the back cover is touching.

5*****

Robbie says

Beautifully illustrated!

In this book the images say much more than words. You float between dream and reality, childhood and senescence.

Wonderful.

David Schaafsma says

An all ages wordless picturebook featuring an old man living alone on a deserted island and a boy in an apparently deserted house in the city. Are they grandfather and grandchild? Or are they the same person? The man receives a note in a bottle, then draws a fantastical flying machine, which also look sin part like a sailboat. The man sends his drawing back to sea, and the boy receives it in a letter. The boy sails the ship to meet the man.

What is the relationship between memory and dreams in the imagination over the span of a lifetime? What is the relationship between youth and old age? What place has isolation in the process of art-making?

The drawing is angular, dark, dramatically lit and somewhat surreal. The sense of isolation conveyed feels haunting, but open-ended, open to interpretation, worth talking about in conversations between older and younger people, who finally may find more in common with each other than either might have imagined.

Thanks, Nancy, for the recommendation!

Mary Librarian says

Is it a wordless picture book or a graphic novel? I'm not totally sure but it is remarkable. Lots of detail on every page/panel and what the story is about is truly left up to the reader's interpretation.

My favorite character is definitely the cat.

CaraMae says

Time travel = Dreams travel. A story without words, all imagination. Beautiful!

Debbie Tanner says

This wordless picture book is very unusual-most wordless picture books are meant for little kids with developing language skills, but the complexity of the art work in this one makes me think it would be better for bigger kids. The pictures tell a story of a man who draws an amazing sailing ship. The drawing makes it way to a boy and the boy comes to the man on the sailing ship. The ending is ambiguous so it would invite a lot of conversation. I might need to read it a few more times before I decide if I really like it.

Elizabeth A says

This wordless picture book would work equally well for both children and adults. The art is stunning, and I could look at each page for hours. Since it's wordless there are many possible interpretations of the story. There's an old man and a young boy. Are they the same person in different time? Did one imagine, create, or dream up the other? Could the man be re-discovering memories he had forgotten? What is the relationship between art and isolation and distance? Try it and see what story plays in your head.

Cheriee Weichel says

It's easy to get lost inside the details Coelho fills these pages with. I love the contrast between almost overwhelming clutter and then almost stark simplicity. I love the multiple perspectives.

This book is sure to leave readers wondering what is going on here and questioning what the story is all about. For me, I wonder about the relationship between the young boy and the old man. Who are they and why are they important to each other? Coelho tells us how the story came to be, but gives us no answers in the cover notes.

Rebecca says

Beautiful book. For those that live The Little Prince, this gorgeously conceived and illustrated wordless

novel will be right up your alley.

Jim Erekson says

A very nice example of counterpoint--the narratives compete and contradict each other in ways that made me ask questions. Unfortunately, ALL the questions seem to be asked in the book's blurb right here on goodreads.com. So it's a simple book.

But for me the question of whether one scene or the other is real or a dream is not as important as the way the word dream connotes imagining. It's one of those stories where a 'Wizard of Oz - oh it was all a dream' answer is not satisfying given the clues Coelho lays down in the narrative. Most importantly, why does a blank message show up in a bottle? The message in the bottle on the last page is rolled up, and we cannot see whether it has his steampunk boat drawing on it, the crayon drawing with the boy and the cat in the boat, or nothing!
