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The Little Sleepyhead

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Manushkin, Fran. *The Little Sleepyhead*. Illustrated by Leonid Gore. Dutton Children's Books, 2004. ISBN 0525469567. \$16.99. 32 pp.

Reviewer: Irene Halliday

Reading Level: Toddler, Preschool

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Bedtime stories;

Subject: Bedtime--Juvenile literature; Sleep--Juvenile literature;

"A long time ago, when the world was so young that all the rocks were little pebbles and all the chicks were still in their eggs there lived a Little Sleepyhead." At the end of an exciting day of play, the Little Sleepyhead grows very tired. Noticing his comfortable, sleeping forest friends, he searches for a soft place to sleep. Bug-filled, prickly grass just doesn't work, nor do bumpy branches of trees, slippery lily pads on the pond, or using a soft, but LOUDLY snoring bear for a pillow. Finally, a flock of birds ruffle their feathers, causing the wind to sneeze, and all of the loose feathers to blow around until they land in a soft, high heap. "This is what I need!" said the Little Sleepyhead. "A bed!"

From the very first page of a simple, pleasingly cozy bedtime story, a visual treat begins. Stunning, luminous pastel scenes reach out and wrap the reader in a dream world of rich, vibrant color that is layered with light and texture. The simplicity of the lines complements the dream-like softness and transparency of the surrounding atmosphere and invites the reader, as well as the Little Sleepyhead, to curl up on something soft, find something to hug, and drift off to sleep. Highly recommended bedtime reading for toddlers, preschoolers and their worn-out parents.