



2004

Will You Carry Me?

Irene Halliday

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Rossum, Heleen Van. *Will You Carry Me?*. Illustrated by Harmelen, Peter Van. Kane/Miller, 2005. ISBN 1929132743. \$15.95. 26 pp.

Reviewer: Irene Halliday

Reading Level: Toddler, Preschool

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Humorous stories;

Subject: Mothers and sons--Juvenile fiction; Play--Juvenile fiction; Creative thinking--Juvenile fiction;

Toddler Thomas has had a busy, exciting morning playing in the park with other children, various exotic animals and insects, and especially with Mommy. Now it is time to go home, but Thomas is much too tired to walk. He wants to be carried by his equally-tired Mommy. Mommy doesn't complain; instead, she smiles as she comes up with wonderfully creative ways to get Thomas happily back home without carrying him as well as her backpack. Jumping, swimming, flying and running along city streets naturally attract the attention of other children, inviting their participation. Even the pets and other park critters join the homeward game.

Both author and illustrator turn an ordinary event into something extraordinary in this delightful picture book, first published in 2004 in Amsterdam, Netherlands. The sky is sometimes yellow, sometimes pink, sometimes purple, as are the trees and bushes, European-style buildings and park furnishings. Real and stuffed animals mingle freely with a tiny mermaid and elf, as all of them join in the fun concocted by a creative Mommy. The detailed illustrations and joyful text work together to create a magical journey home. The story will surprise and delight toddlers and pre-schoolers and may give other tired Mommies some fresh ideas.