



2018

Big Machines: The Story of Virginia Lee Burton

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Singleton, Haley (2018) "Big Machines: The Story of Virginia Lee Burton," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 39 : Iss. 1 , Article 10.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol39/iss1/10>

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Book Review

Big Machines: The Story of Virginia Lee Burton

Twig and his friends, Lily and Basil, set off to take their baby dragon, Char, home. While sailing, they must find their way around a beaver dam, food shortage, and even a mighty storm. Their ship sinks, shipwrecking them on an island where they discover more baby dragons, Char's siblings. When it becomes apparent that the dragons are fine on their own, Lily and Twig start building a way to go home. To their surprise, their enemy from back home, Professor Burdock, appears and with Basil's help tries to smuggle the baby dragons off the island. Lily and Twig fight to save the dragons, and with the help of the mama dragon, the babies are rescued and Lily and Twig are able to make the journey home safely.

This story sends a sweet message about friendship and finding the way home. Full of sacrifice and compassion, the journey of these small heroes is sure to warm the reader's heart. These friends go through trying experiences which can either push them apart or bring them closer together. Together, these friends are able to weather the storms of this adventure and accomplish their goal. The story itself is simple and does seem to move rather quickly, which is perfect for younger readers beginning to explore chapter books. Besides the story, the book is filled with beautiful black-and-white pencil drawings which illustrate the plot. The artwork is very well done, with a lot of detail and emotion. With lovable woodland animals as the main characters and fantastical dragons in the mix, children are sure to love this sequel to Brambleheart.

Author

Sherrí Duskey Rinker

Illustrator

John Rocco

Reviewer

Haley Cook

Rating

Excellent

Level

Primary

Pages

48

Year

2017

Publisher

Houghton Mifflin Com-

ISBN

9781629723587