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Bat and the End of Everything

Jessica Mellor

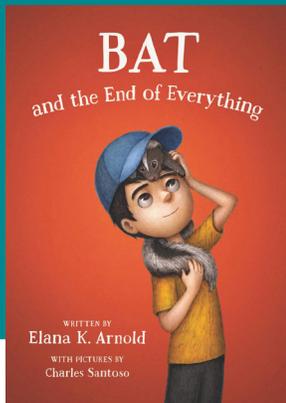
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Book Review

Bat and the End of Everything

Author

Elana K. Arnold

Illustrator

Charles Santoso

Reviewer

Jessica Mellor

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Rating

Excellent

Level

Primary

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Pages

184

Year

2019

ISBN

9780062798442

Publisher

Walden Pond Press

Bat loves animals, especially Thor, his pet skunk; but is it time to return him to the wild? Lots of changes are happening in Bixby Alexander Tam's (aka Bat's) life. Between being offered to take care of the classroom rabbit for the summer, his dad's new girlfriend, working at his mom's veterinary clinic, and worrying about being separated from Thor—it's a lot for a kid with autism to take care of. The bond between skunk and boy is not to be underestimated though, as everything finds its place in the end.

Elana Arnold does a great job of writing about a kid who falls on the autistic spectrum without having to come out and say that he's autistic. Here, it's just a normal part of life. It shows how Bat and his family deal with stressful situations, such as Bat wearing earmuffs when things get too noisy for him. One doesn't need to have read the other books in order to appreciate this one. The book has more text with only the occasional picture, making it ideal for kids more accustomed to reading for longer lengths. The font is also larger than normal for ease of reading. Would recommend to schools and public libraries as a way to raise awareness of autism and how others think. It's also a great book for animal lovers, as this book provides details on how to care for animals—especially skunks.