



2020

The Glassmaker's Daughter

Deborah Le Starge

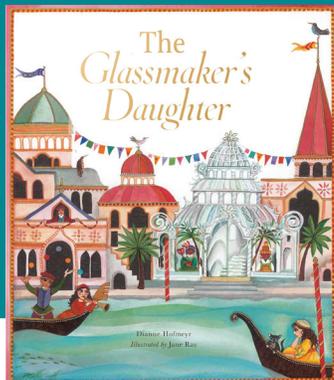
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Book Review

The Glassmaker's Daughter

Author

Dianne Hofmeyr

Illustrator

Jane Ray

Reviewer

Deborah Le Starge

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Rating

Excellent

Level

Preschool, Primary

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Pages

30

Year

2017

ISBN

9781847806765

Publisher

Frances Lincoln
Children's Books

Although she is surrounded by the beauty of Venice and the shimmer and shine of her father's glass creations, Daniela is glum and gloomy. In order to help his daughter's melancholy mood, Daniela's father declares that he will give a glass palace to the first person that can make her smile. People come from all around, including a circus performer, mask maker, and lion tamer. In the end, it is a simple gift from a young glassmaker that reminds Daniela that she can find happiness within herself.

The watercolor and ink illustrations in this book are beautiful, with lots of detail and vibrant colors to brighten the pages. Other fun elements include a reflective holographic detail and gold detailing that portray glass shards and buildings in the city in a beautiful way. The title page of this book offers a short informative piece on glassmakers in Venice in the 1200s. This small section is not imperative but does add extra depth, because it explains why the young glassmaker was secretive about his unique gift, which is an important plot point. In the end, the message of this book is to find happiness within yourself rather than looking to outside sources. This is seen throughout the book as people bring Daniela material things, because it isn't until she was given a gift that made her turn her thoughts inward that she found happiness. The knowledge of her inner beauty and happiness also makes bells ring and gives the outside world more joy.