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The Ballad of Tubs Marshfield

Taylor Bitton

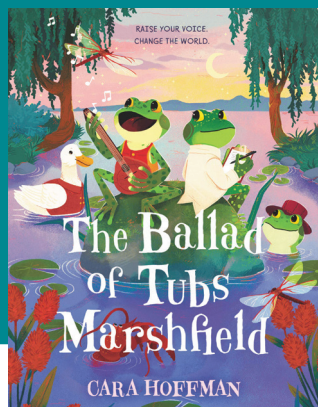
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Book Review

The Ballad of Tubs Marshfield

Author

Cara Hoffman

Illustrator

Olivia Chin Mueller

Reviewer

Taylor Bitton

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Rating

Dependable

Level

Primary

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Pages

190

Year

2020

ISBN

9780062865472

Publisher

HarperCollins
Children's Books

Tubs Marshfield, a frog who loves to play music, has lived in the swamp for his whole life. Everyone is happy, but lately, animals have started getting sick and no one can figure out why. So, Tubs decides to visit Pythia, the fortune-telling alligator. Pythia is unsure of what is causing the sicknesses, but she tells Tubs that he must leave the swamp to avoid bringing misery to his friends and family and to realize his musical dreams. As he decides whether to leave the swamp, Tubs is able to figure out the source of everyone's sickness and what he wants for his own future.

This fun novel is full of quirky characters and endearing story lines. The originality of the story itself will be sure to draw readers in, and occasional black-and-white illustrations add an engaging visual element to the story. The pacing, however, is not consistent. The story is set up to convince readers that Tubs should leave the swamp, but when he attempts to leave, he just ends up returning the same day. His return causes an unexpected change in trajectory, leaving readers unsure of how the plot could progress. Regardless, the recovery is quick and the ending satisfactory, making this an enjoyable book for young readers.