2005

Keeper of Soles

Janice Card

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Reviewer: Janice Card
Reading Level: All
Rating: Excellent
Genre: Folklore; Fantasy fiction; Humorous stories;
Subject: Shoemakers--Juvenile fiction; Shoes--Juvenile fiction; Death--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

“"A well-made shoe does what it's supposed to do," says Colin the Cobbler. Rich and poor alike depend on him for the finest shoes.

One night there is a knock at Colin’s door, and who should be standing there, but Death himself--he wants Colin's soul! Colin sees that Death is barefoot. “What you need is a good pair of shoes.” Colin cuts out a pattern quickly so he can construct a fine pair of sandals for the Grim Reaper. Death is so surprised he agrees to return in four weeks. Clever Colin buys more time whenever Death returns. Many pairs of shoes later, Death returns and demands Colin's soul, and Colin tells him that is what he has been giving him all these years: “I've given you sole after sole.” Surprisingly, Death proves to be a good sport. He also has a sense of humor!

The artwork is funky, but so fun. It sets the story off to perfection.