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A Promise Is a Promise

Sandra L. Tidwell

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Knister. *A Promise Is a Promise*. Illustrated by Eve Tharlet. Penguin Young Readers Group, 2006. ISBN 0698400402. \$16.99. 32 p.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Toddler, Preschool, Primary

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Picture Books;

Subject: Marmots--Juvenile fiction; Dandelions--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Bruno, a little marmot, emerges from his hibernation to discover a beautiful yellow talking flower named Dandelion! He and Dandelion become fast friends and they laugh and play together for days. When Dandelion matures to a lovely ball of wispy fluff, Dandelion asks Bruno, "Do you trust me?" "Of course," attests Bruno. Then Dandelion instructs Bruno to "take a deep breath and blow as hard as you can. Everything will be just fine, I promise." Well, Bruno finds out what happens when he blows on that fluffy seed head - seeds fly everywhere! Bruno feels devastated! "But she promised everything would be fine," thinks Bruno. By next spring, Bruno discovers that everything IS fine as he gazes over the valley which is now glowing with hundreds of new yellow dandelions.

A Promise Is a Promise is a beautiful picture book which tenderly teaches the cycle of life and reinforces the reality of reawakening springtime. Tharlet's illustrations of animals, insects, and plants are endearing. The cover illustration of Bruno will draw readers to the book; Bruno's expressions clearly reflect his changing emotions. Children will be able to relate to Bruno, for they will notice that whether Bruno is sleeping or playing in the moonlight, he grasps his little blue blanket for comfort.