



The Mountains of Tibet

By Mordicai Gerstein

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A Tibetan woodcutter dreams of exploring the world, but is too busy with his life to ever leave his valley. After he dies, he is taken on a journey through the cosmos and all the places on Earth as he makes choices that lead him to a new life.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A tenderly told story about an old woodcutter and his choices when he faces the chance to live life over again. Ages 7-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 2 Up This story of the death and reincarnation of a Tibetan woodcutter is a beautifully gentle look at one human being dealing with life's choices and possibilities. As a boy, he thought about other worlds that he would someday visit; as a man, he thought of other countries and people, yet "he was always busy with his work and his wife and children." After his death, he is given the option of being part of "the endless universe some call heaven" or living another life, and he chooses another life. The choices which follow take him through all the galaxies, stars, planets, creatures, peoples, countries, and parents before arriving at the final twist in this journey back to where he had been almost. Thus, the story comes full circle. The quiet, rhythmic text is in perfect unity with the softly colored but radiant watercolor and gouache illustrations, leaving readers with a sense of wholeness and resolution. The golden borders neatly tuck the story in and add to its feeling of satisfaction and quiet joy. The real world scenes are in neatly boxed frames while the worlds of possibilities are displayed in mandala-like circular drawings. The main character, pictured in his small personal mandala, shows a range of emotions and dance-like movement. The kites held by the children in three scenes connect the multiple worlds of the story, providing both a grounding in the world we know and a means to soar beyond it. Children will appreciate the well-told tale and the joyous satisfaction of being one's own self in a large and magical world. Kay E. Vandergrift, School of Communication, Information and Library Studies, Rutgers Univ. , New Brunswick, N.J.

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Review

'A timeless tale at ease with the rhythm of life and death, and perfect for a child who likes to ponder the imponderable' - Guardian

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Preston Sloan:

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