



Burt Dow, Deep-Water Man

Robert McCloskey

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Whenever Burt Dow, who lives in a snug little house on the Maine coast, sets out to sea, his pet giggling gull goes along. But this time, it will take all his might and some plain old ingenuity to save him and the gull from a raging storm.

Burt Dow, Deep-Water Man Details

Date : Published March 1st 1989 by Puffin Books (first published 1963)

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Author : Robert McCloskey

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Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Fiction, Adventure, Animals, Fantasy, 1st Grade, Humor, Classics

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From Reader Review Burt Dow, Deep-Water Man for online ebook

Margaret Chind says

We read this in our Make Way for McCloskey as recommended by Sonlight P3/4 and while I love the sepia tones of Make Way for Ducklings the vividly colorful illustrations send the reader for a whirl. If ever there were a read aloud to bring out my slightly hidden Georgia accent... oh my it would be with Burt, Leela, and Idely Tidely! This was a fun read and I'm sure with more read oversea I will find even more fun behind it. There are rhymes and rhythm. There are sounds and repeats. So much for entertainment and education. What fun!

Amy says

A tall tale about a retired deep-water man. I loved the line about his painting inside the whale's tummy: "He was beginning to enjoy himself - probably because it was the first time he'd ever had a chance to really express his personality in paint."

This is accompanied by an illustration of the whale's pink tummy, splattered and streaked with yellow, black, and brown splotches - it might have been quite modern in 1963.

I also liked the complete blackness of the pages just after he convinced the whale to swallow him.

Amy says

When I saw that this book had only 38 reviews, I had to add mine. I never heard of this book growing up, but my husband saved his copy. Yes, this is a loong picture book, especially by today's standards. Anyone who has read it aloud can feel for me: my three-year-old son was so obsessed by this book we had to read it many times each day. My poor ol' engine was so wore out, it was going clackety-BANG clackety-BANG. Not that my son noticed. He would line up all his props on the playroom floor -- everything from popovers to fishing line to a can of cup grease -- to have on hand for his eleventy-billionth performance of BURT DOW, DEEP-WATER MAN.

Some of the writing in this book is wonderful, really fantastic, though I did *ahem* occasionally skip parts. My husband and I even looked up Robert McCloskey on Wikipedia to find out if he was alive, because we wanted to tell him there was at least one three-year-old child who still wanted a raincoat and hat just like Burt's. Alas, Mr. McCloskey has passed away, as has the world of this book, as has the world that would publish a book like this. The little boy who loved Burt Dow is now eight. Now he loves Lego Clone Wars or whatever it's called, and I am nostalgic for the old days. So I had to write this review. Thanks for reading.

Meg says

Things I loved about this book: the quirky, regionalized language; the absolutely first-rate illustrations (easy to see why McCloskey was recognized by the Library of Congress), the story itself of whales and an old fisherman and band-aids.

What I didn't love about this book: It's verbose. Almost painfully so. So so many words! Especially for a children's book. While this may have held kids' attention in days past, I don't think that it will keep today's attention spans (though it may for upper-elementary students).

This would best lend itself to a read-aloud by a very skilled speaker. Expert bedtime-storytellers will find it a refreshing challenge, and those who appreciate a good dialect will enjoy the rhythm of the language in this book.

Dolly says

We borrowed this book from the library as part of a kit with an audiocassette narrated by Tim Sample and music composed by Petr Skoumal. We enjoyed listening to the heavily accented narration while we followed along with the book.

The illustrations are very entertaining and old fashioned, but with a riot of color that many of Robert McCloskey's other books lack. And when Burt is inside the whale, they are a bit psychedelic and resemble a Jackson Pollock painting. In fact, the whole second half of the story makes me wonder if old Mr. Dow had inhaled too many paint fumes.

Overall, it was an entertaining story and we enjoyed listening to it together. I'm glad we listened to a recording of it; even though I grew up in New England, I wouldn't have been able to mimic his accent as well as the narrator.

new word: dory

Ryan says

This book is older than I am, but when i crack open that rarely used spine, I am engulfed in a magic of color and story as only Robert McClosky can do. Burt Dow is a retired boat man. He has one small, leaky, rainbow boat left. One day while out on the water, he captures a whale of a tale. But if I told you the story you wouldn't believe it. There are some stories that should stick around for generations and this is one. I would love to see new copies reprinted for today's generation. But the story is longer than most picture books. So until the publishers see fit to bring these classics back, head to your local university library with an education department, for they will surely have some of this classics. Probably in new condition.

Erzsi Bloemer says

Best read aloud children's book ever. Add a Dad willing to milk all the comedy he can out of the characters' voices, and the children will giggle themselves happily off to dreamland. Find the sturdiest paper copy you can, for this will be enjoyed often.

MB (What she read) says

Somehow, I never realized Robert McCloskey had a book I hadn't read. How fun! I missed his beautiful line drawings, but this story needed to be told in paint since that's integral to the plot.

Sarah says

This is a big fish story if I ever heard one! Burt Dow catches a whale, but tenderly takes out the hook and applies a bandaid. He gets swallowed by a whale like Jonah and Geppetto (Apparently that happened alot pre-70's) to be rescued from the storm. The grateful whale takes him to his herd of whales who begin slapping the water with their tails until his boat is about to sink. Can he figure what they want before he goes to Davy Jones' locker?

Logan says

Fanciful, yet down to earth. Burt Dow is just the sort of old deep-water man you'd like to have around. He knows a thing or two that a younger man wouldn't, that's for sure! Now back to sticking more band-aids on whale-tales.

Maria says

The art in this book is a major departure from the pencil drawings of McCloskey's other books. This book is painted in vivid springtime colors that pop. I love his use of spatter paint throughout to depict waves. I don't want to give too much away, but there are also some terrific illustrations of whales. The story is cute, if somewhat random and is told in a folksy voice that seems appropriate, if somewhat stereotypical, for a deep-water man.

Wetdryvac Wetdryvac says

Starts off somewhat normal-like, gets out of hand in a right hurry. Another favorite Maine-ish book.

Kaelin O says

Charming story and character, with gorgeous and colorful illustrations.

Kelly says

Silly, silly. The boys loved it.

Charity Yost Reed says

The illustrations are so colorful for a McCloskey book. My children couldn't handle the whole book in one sitting. We broke it up over several nights. Too many words per page for my 3-year-olds, but no good stopping places.

Phoebe says

A lesser-known McCloskey but deserves to have more fame. Old salt Burt Dow has an old boat that he takes out fishing, and one day, because of good weather, he takes it farther out than usual. He has an extraordinary adventure. This is a perfect read-aloud for 5 and up, especially for kids in that band-aid, boo-boo fascination stage. Plus it has whales.

Nikki says

Although I dearly love McCloskey's illustrations for *Blueberries for Sal*, *One Morning in Maine*, and *Make Way for Ducklings*, sometimes kids need color, and Burt Dow, *Deep-Water Man* has plenty. While the above books revel in a gentle every-dayness with a bit of adventure thrown in, Burt Dow is a tall tale in the great American tradition. McCloskey's sense of humor is put to good use here. Highly recommended!

Sylvester says

4* art

4* story

Up in the attic there is a box of Books To Be Read When the Time Is Ripe. This book sat in that box for many years, biding its time. A few months ago I pulled it out and thought, "Finally!" This is the thing about being a parent, I now get to re-read and re-live and re-enjoy all the best books of my childhood (and the ones I missed) with my son. And he was riveted by this one. Absolute silence and attention the whole time we read. Wonderful. Some of the happiest times of my life, these moments with Squirt. I remember this with my own parents, and it seems right to continue the pattern. Will Squirt read "Burt Dow, Deep-Water Man" to his child one day? Please God, may it be so.

Becky B says

Burt Dow takes out his trusty ol' *Tidely-Idley* like usual to fish, but ends up having a whale of an adventure.

I didn't remember many details about this book from my childhood. As an adult, I love the voice that

McCloskey gave Burt. The repeated sound words and colorful Burtisms really set the tone for this tall tale sea adventure. And kids will totally understand why whales would kick up a ruckus for fancy band-aids. A delightful tale great for introducing colloquialisms and tall tales.

Rainey says

4.5 Stars

Burt Dow is precious and his adventures are so much fun. It's easy to see why this book is a New England classic.
