



The Man from the Land of Fandango

Margaret Mahy , Polly Dunbar (Illustrations)

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“The man from the land of Fandango / Is given to dancing and dreams, / He comes in at the door like a somersault star / And he juggles with junkets and jam in a jar / And custards and caramel creams.”

Two children paint Mr. Fandango to life, and together the trio has a tremendous adventure with baboons and bisons, dinosaurs and kangaroos! Polly Dunbar’s textured, childlike illustrations reveal a playful imaginary world, and even the lines of type curve and tango. A bouncy, buoyant read-aloud for storytime.

The Man from the Land of Fandango Details

Date : Published October 23rd 2012 by Clarion Books (first published September 1st 2012)

ISBN : 9780547819884

Author : Margaret Mahy , Polly Dunbar (Illustrations)

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Poetry, Fantasy

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From Reader Review *The Man from the Land of Fandango* for online ebook

Viviane Elbee says

This book was ok.
It is fun to read aloud with the rhyme, and it is very silly.
The kids did not request a re-read though.

Samantha says

Think the Beatles Magical Mystery Tour. The man from the land of Fandango only visits every 500 years and when he does brings wild adventures and treats galore.

Watercolor and collage illustrations are vibrantly colored and dance across the pages just like the rhyming text.

Ariel Cummins says

Nonsense poem about a man from Fandango, who always brings silliness with him whenever he visits.

A multimedia art style matches the nonsense fun of the poem, with many elements on each page.

This book just didn't do it for me for some reason. Although it is written in verse, I couldn't get the rhythm right in my head. I'd love to hear someone who really felt it read it though!

Amy Forrester says

“The man from the land of Fandango / is coming to pay you a call...”

In playful rhyming verse Mahy extols the magical virtues of the mysterious man from the land of Fandango. He can change shapes, make animals dance, juggle “with jelly and jam in a jar,” and even walk on the ceiling! But you better be at home when he calls, because “he only appears every five hundred years!”

The rollicking rhyming text of this story, one of the last written by the late Mahy, bounces along and trips off the tongue. There is a chorus that is repeated with slightly different words highlighting the sound of a different consonant each time, “And he bingles and bangles and bounces.” There is no conflict in the story, instead it’s a nonsensical adventure filled with delicious foods and musical animals. Dunbar’s illustrations, a mixture of watercolor and collage, are bright, whimsical, and celebratory. Various techniques are used to add texture to the illustrations, such as spattering paint, cut papers, and rubber stamps. The man from the land of Fandango is mischievous and jolly, with rosy red cheeks, a tri-colored jacket, and a polka-dot tie. Although

they are not mentioned directly in the text, the illustrations feature a small boy and girl who follow the man from the land of Fandango on his celebratory journey.

Full Review at Picture-Book-a-Day: <http://picturebookaday.blogspot.com/2...>

Mely says

Though this is quite a silly and amusing tale of a book, I thought the rhyming text fell short. The pacing was a little off for a read-aloud. Vibrant and colorful illustrations.

Vernon Area Public Library KIDS says

You can't help but smile while reading this silly rhyming tale! From the imagination of a brother and sister, Mr. Fandango enters with "bingles and bangles and bounces" and takes the kids on magical trip filled with dancing bears, musical baboons, and other playful animals. The frolicking winds down with a party with sweets treats to eat and a promise of a future visit "as they tingle and tingle and tangle/Till tomorrow turns into today." Fans of "The Cat and the Hat" by Dr. Seuss and "Jamberry" by Bruce Degen will love this spirited picture book. Ages preschool thru second grade.

Reviewed by: Miss Alyson, Youth Services, Vernon Area Public Library

Barbara says

In rhyming text the book tells the story of a strangely delightful man who comes for a visit only rarely. The title would be fun to read aloud, as young readers would follow the children as they prepare for the visit. The rhythm and rhyme make this one fun to read aloud or for choral reading. Since whimsy isn't my thing, it wasn't really my cup of tea despite the watercolor and collage illustrations that fill its pages.

Tasha says

My son and I had just stopped in the middle of a rather painful rhyming picture book and then we picked up this one. The contrast was profound. Here we found a fanciful and playful picture book with rhymes that swept us merrily up. It is the story of a man from an imaginary land who leaps off of the page where he is created by two small children. They dance with a bear and a bison, bound with kangaroos. There is juggling, jingling, and even cake! Then the man returns to the picture, not to return for another 500 years. It's a silly and very fun book that is filled with nonsense and plenty of jam.

Mahy's words really dance here, carrying the story forward on a rhyming flow. This is not a book that is a straight-forward story, rather it's a dazzlingly silly wander. Children will quickly understand that this is pure nonsense and go with it. Dunbar's illustrations have a wonderfully light touch. They are filled with bubbles and speckles. Whimsical creatures and plants populate the page, often dancing with glee.

This is a merry read that has a great lightness and silliness at its heart. A wonderful posthumous release from the amazing Mahy. Appropriate for ages 2-4.

Shannan says

This book has a great metre throughout and would be a great read aloud with the words just dancing off the tongue. Rhyme and repetition are used to great effect and will keep children engaged and joining in.

Fun and whimsical with the words themselves dancing in waves on the pages amongst colourful, fun art.

Anna - Kids says

It was alright

Ernie says

Sadly, this must be Margaret Mahy's final book. It's one of her verse books, lively with rhyme and rhythm. Having had the privilege of hearing Margaret perform her own verses, I can imagine the rollicking, virtuoso, fun-filled performance she would have given. Others will try to emulate her because she makes it so easy to read aloud. "The man from the land of Fandango/ Is given to dancing and dreams/ He comes in at the door like a somersault star/ And he juggles with junkets and jam in a jar/ And custards and caramel creams..." Polly Dunbar supports the linguistic fun with party bright colours and jocular images like the bison dancing in red high-heeled shoes.

Elaine says

A cute rhyming book about a man who occasionally visits from the land of Fandango who brings with him a lot of fun and treats, during this rare and special moment. The concept is good along with the illustrations but unfortunately it felt like something small was lacking. The children enjoyed the illustrations asked questions and made observations during preschool storytime. Cute book.

Donalyn says

Maybe this book plays better in New Zealand. I don't get it.

Kevin Doyle says

Once you've read the first sentence of this fun book, you can't help but sing the rest of it. Such is the quality of the writing and the well crafted rhythm and rhyme. Definitely expect to have a bouncy, energetic time with this one.

The bright, cartoonish illustrations truly portray the playful spirit of The Man From the Land of Fandango. He's a ball, he's a bell, he juggles, he's all types of things. Oh and at one point, there's a bison dancing in red high-heeled shoes. Which is seriously....pretty awesome!

You can't help but think of everyone's favorite "The Cat in the Hat" as you read this book. It has the same chaotic, anything-goes feel to it and I think that's why our kids liked this one so well.

My favorite thing about this book was listening to our 3 1/2 year old little boy try to sing the opening lines. It's a bit of a tongue twister and he definitely tumbled all the words together, but it sure was cute!

Grab this one for boys or girls who like wild, rhyming, zany silliness. But make sure you tell whoever's going to be reading it that it's not a "read aloud" book....but a SING aloud book!

Jim Erikson says

Mahy's poem was rhythmically great, and the nonsense was a lot of fun. She never goes into the actual meaning of fandango, but just seems to enjoy the word. I could hear a lot of Edward Lear in this, but also it reminded me very much of Nancy Willard's "The Man in the Marmalade Hat."

Dunbar's illustrations were not a great complement, because they did way too much to set the tone for how to think about the poem. She is a good cartoon-style illustrator, but the mismatch to the poem made it difficult to appreciate. As with most poetry, I just wish it weren't illustrated. I think it would be a very good poem for a read-aloud and to learn to recite, but without the pictures would be better.
