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Willa and Old Miss Annie

Books Reviewed:

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~~Editor's Choice:~~

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

5

This collaboration between award winning author and celebrated illustrator was Highly Commended for the Carnegie Medal when it appeared in hardback in 1994. There are three linked short stories, suitable to read to infant school children or for juniors to read for themselves, in which Willa and Old Miss Annie play a part in the lives of a goat, a pony and a fox. Doherty makes a virtue of a restricted vocabulary, polishing phrases until they shine and repeating them in a way that is both hypnotic and comforting. She uses words to illuminate the magic of the stories. The pony found abandoned in the wood is identified first by a desperate misspelled plea, written in the snow, 'Helb the bony'. And **boney** he is, until he is nursed back to **bonny** health. Doherty transports these adventures into the realm of folk tale in which the older characters, viewed from the level of a small child, become larger than life; in the less attractive traits of selfishness, jealousy and deceit as well as those of friendship, warmth and understanding. Lewis's black and white illustrations, perfectly placed in the text, set the stories in a recognisable country landscape. A gem of a book.

Running Order:

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