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The Grotlyn

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[Sue McGonigle](#) [3]

~~Not a Choice:~~

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

4

In this striking picturebook we travel back in time to a grimy cityscape with oil lamps, night caps and organ grinders. Since hearing an organ tune, young Rubi has had a strange rhyme in her head about a Grotlyn visiting houses at night. Is that what she can hear scuttling across her floor as she lies in bed, or is it just a mouse? Soon others in the town report hearing strange noises too, and objects mysteriously disappearing. Rumours about a Grotlyn in the town are spreading. Readers feeling nervous can be reassured with the words: 'But don't be afraid to sleep ? to dream! For things are not quite what they seem.' And indeed the mystery is eventually solved with a surprise ending; the night time thief turns out to be the organ grinder's monkey collecting what he needs to make a daring escape from his master.

This is a mysterious rhyming picturebook, with just the right balance of spookiness and reassurance, from the talented creator of [The Storm Whale](#) [4] and [Grandad's Island](#) [5]. The illustrations are atmospheric, rich and detailed with lots to spot, including wonderful double page spreads before the title page and after the story ends. A perfect story to share on a dark night.

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