



Black Dog

By Levi Pinfold

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An enormous black dog and a very tiny little girl star in this offbeat tale about confronting one's fears.

When a huge black dog appears outside the Hope family home, each member of the household sees it and hides. Only Small, the youngest Hope, has the courage to face the black dog, who might not be as frightening as everyone else thinks.

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Black Dog By Levi Pinfold Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 1-6-This tale of fear grown wild will ignite the imaginations of many children. Like a thriller, it starts with a threat: a big black dog is outside. As each family member awakens and notices it, it grows as big as a Jeffy. (Look for clues of that beast in drawings strewn about the house.) Structured with outstandingly toned tempera paintings on one side, each family member color-coded and carefully wrought sepia vignettes interspersed with text reminiscent of the work of Shaun Tan on the other, the action advances quickly into a chase. Small, the youngest of the artistic family living in a vertical-gabled red house in an eerily green snow-covered forest, sees the dog for what it is—she calls the MacGuffin a guffin—but agrees he is BIG. She could fit in one of its nostrils! Small makes him catch her if he can. She taunts him down a size and makes him squeeze into a slide, under a footbridge. The visuals go cinemascope during the chase, but resume their structure when they enter the cat flap. An ode to scale, to the portholes and bay windows of Victorian architecture, the poetry of family chatter, and steampunk elegance of antique hot-water heaters, all are here for young eyes to luxuriate in and imagine that they are courageous Small with their family's love shining down like rainbows. Fear, fun, and just dripping with beauty, this title will pair perfectly with Neil Gaiman's *The Wolves in the Walls* (HarperCollins, 2003).—Sara Lissa Paulson, American Sign Language and English Lower School, New York City© Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From Booklist

Starred Review This fable about confronting and conquering fear should hook anyone who sees Pinfold's cover illustration, which depicts a Gothic-looking house, a tiny child, and a paw print the size of a tank. The story begins one snowy morning when Mr. Hope looks outside to see a dog the size of a tiger. That assessment is upgraded to the size of an elephant when Mrs. Hope sees it, and the size of a Tyrannosaurus rex when little Adeline sees it. (A huge golden eye stares through the window next to where Adeline brushes her teeth.) The family's solution? Turn out the lights, close the curtains, and hide beneath the covers. Thankfully, the youngest, Small, goes outside to meet the towering dog, whose big wet nose covers a full two-page spread. She gets the dog to chase her, using rhymes to convince the animal to get progressively smaller to fit through various obstacles: You can't follow where I go, / unless you shrink, or don't you know? Pinfold's lavish, Van Allsburglike illustrations, which juxtapose tiny black-and-white sketches with big, detailed, frozen-in-time paintings, are quirky, funny, and often heart-stopping. Part David and Goliath, part Gingerbread Man, this UK import is a shot of courage for those who need it most. Grades K-2. --Connie Fletcher

Review

Pinfold's story has a timeless quality despite its entirely original flair, with sumptuous paintings and thumbnail embellishments adding narrative and descriptive content... A great pick for storytime, bedtime, anytime.

—Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

An ode to scale, to the portholes and bay windows of Victorian architecture, the poetry of family chatter, and steampunk elegance of antique hot-water heaters, all are here for young eyes to luxuriate in and imagine that they are courageous Small with their family's love shining down like rainbows. Fear, fun, and just dripping with beauty, this title will pair perfectly with Neil Gaiman's *The Wolves in the Walls*.

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—Booklist (starred review)

Pinfold's interiors are crammed with quirky detail, and his small sepia vignettes, which cluster around the story's text, are an elegant detail. More crucially, the story stays focused, the pacing is strong, and Small Hope is as charming as she is brave.

—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mark Spears:

Do you have something that suits you such as book? The book lovers usually prefer to pick book like comic, brief story and the biggest the first is novel. Now, why not trying Black Dog that give your fun preference will be satisfied by reading this book. Reading habit all over the world can be said as the opportunity for people to know world better then how they react in the direction of the world. It can't be mentioned constantly that reading habit only for the geeky particular person but for all of you who wants to end up being success person. So, for all of you who want to start looking at as your good habit, you could pick Black Dog become your own starter.

Gary Clark:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you actually, why because this Black Dog publication written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written within good manner for you, leaking every ideas and writing skill only for eliminate your personal hunger then you still doubt Black Dog as good book not only by the cover but also by the content. This is one book that can break don't judge book by its deal with, so do you still needing yet another sixth sense to pick this kind of! Oh come on your studying sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

Belinda Bedard:

Is it anyone who having spare time and then spend it whole day by means of watching television programs or just lying down on the bed? Do you need something new? This Black Dog can be the solution, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a geek activity. So what these guides have than the others?

Nicholas Valles:

What is your hobby? Have you heard that will question when you got students? We believe that that question was given by teacher to their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every person has different hobby. And also you

know that little person just like reading or as reading through become their hobby. You have to know that reading is very important in addition to book as to be the matter. Book is important thing to increase you knowledge, except your personal teacher or lecturer. You will find good news or update with regards to something by book. A substantial number of sorts of books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them is Black Dog.

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