



Camino a casa

Jairo Buitrago , Rafael Yockteng (Illustrator)

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Un álbum ilustrado donde la fantasía encubre la nostalgia y aborda, con imaginación y ternura, un tema difícil: la ausencia del padre. Una niña pequeña pide a un león que la acompañe en su vida diaria, y al hacerlo compartirá con ella pobreza, tareas domésticas y la ausencia del padre. El león imaginario, símbolo de fuerza y protección dará a la pequeña esa compañía paterna.

Camino a casa Details

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From Reader Review Camino a casa for online ebook

Mississippi Library Commission says

Walk with Me is one of those unique picture books that can evoke different responses from the various people who read it. Younger kids will be struck by its themes of imagination and courage, which were super sweet and beautifully done. As you spend the afternoon with the heroine of the story, you'll be swept up into her story, so don't be surprised if you cry a little tear at the end. We did.

Lizzie says

Simple illustrations and text and yet very arresting in it's message and emotional reality.

La Coccinelle says

That was deeper than I was expecting. I didn't read the synopsis, which pretty much gives everything away. I'm glad I went into it without knowing too much; the emotional impact was greater.

The pictures depicting the results of the girl's imagination, are quite sweet. They also convey a sense of place (the story looks like it takes place somewhere in South America; I doubt you'd see a small child picking up her baby brother from daycare in most parts of North America). It's a nice little peek into the lives of other people, lives that might be very different from our own. But the emotions conveyed--especially in the last part of the book--are universal. Though it's not explicitly explained, we can draw our own conclusions, any of which are fairly emotional.

The depth of this little picture book surprised me. In a good way!

Urbandale Library says

This story of a little girl and her strong imaginary friend appear to be just that on the surface. Diving deeper, this translated story reveals how the little girl conjures an imaginary friend, a lion, to cope with the absence of her father. It was both a touching and heart-breaking read to see her struggle and courageously walk with her lion.

Linda says

After school, a girl asks a lion to walk home with her; if she has company, she won't fall asleep on her way. We see her walk further and further from school, pick up her baby brother at the babysitter's, buy groceries,

and cook dinner.

OK, this one took me a while to understand. After she mentions falling asleep, I thought that this was some kind of world where people mysteriously fall asleep in the afternoons, and that all the people in the pictures were yawning. But, this is a lovely story about the harsh reality that many children live in, where they're forced to grow up quickly because their family would fall apart if they didn't.

(view spoiler)

Fernanda Espinosa L. (Entre tazas de té blog) says

Una historia preciosa.

Abby says

Powerful.

Heydi Smith says

A good one-on-one conversation starter about how people live and can use their imaginations to help them in difficult situations.

Dimity Powell says

I love the subtle, unforced approach these two talented artists imbue their stories with. Superbly sensitive and simple. A young girl bolsters her spirit with an imaginary companion in order to cope with the many daily challenges and expectations of her that make up her daily life: long walks to school by herself, collecting her baby brother whilst her mother works, navigating the wilds and dangers of a large unpredictable city, negotiating for food when the credit is all gone and then preparing the daily meals and all without the guidance or security of having two parents about. Buitrago and Yockteng have taken a massive slice of life and condensed it into a story of profound meaning that even the youngest of readers will connect with. Superb.

Amy! says

You think this is just a nice book about a girl and her imaginary lion, and then it punches you in the face with feels.

The illustrations are totally lovely.

Kristin MB says

Beautiful, sad, sweet, funny, powerful little children's story. A good example of the emotional complexity of children who are going through tough times.

Elisabeth says

Aww! What a beautiful book about courage! This is one of those great books where the illustrations and text mesh together seamlessly in one glorious picture book experience.

Karen says

A little heart-breaking. Originally published in Spanish, apparently, but probably relevant to children in tough situations no matter their family's spoken language.

Camila Riquelme Jaque says

Camino a casa es un álbum ilustrado que a través de sus dibujos y la imaginación de una niña, nos muestra con especial sutileza un problema que es muy recurrente actualmente: la ausencia de una figura paterna. Una de las cosas que más me ha gustado de este libro, son la relevancia que toman las imágenes en la narración de toda la historia. Si ponen atención a todos los detalles de las ilustraciones podrán descubrir muchas cosas interesantes y que revelarán el trasfondo de la historia.

Me ha parecido nostálgico y enternecedor. Créanme cuando les digo que les llegará al corazón.

Barbara says

This picture book will cause readers to do a double take, partly because of how relatable it will be for many youngsters but also because the simple text and illustrations have such impact. As is the case for many youngsters today, a young girl is fully aware that the neighborhood in which she lives presents many dangers. To help herself feel safe as she traverses the city streets and unsavory areas, she imagines a fierce lion who accompanies her as she walks home, picks up her little brother from day care, and prepares a meal. Clearly, hers is a family struggling to survive, evidenced by the exhausted posture of her mother after a day at the factory and the comment about how their credit is no good at one of the local stores. By the time the family has settled down for the night and she reaches for the framed family photograph by her bedside, readers will be curious as to where her father might be, a curiosity that has been building as they read the story. The last illustration provides a clue as to his whereabouts as he presumably is one of the disappeared citizens possibly rounded up by government officials at some point. This book packs a powerful emotional punch on several levels, and the illustrations, "sketched in pencil, scanned, and then redrawn and colored digitally" are filled with soft colors but details that are not to be missed as all the individuals who see the girl and her protector react in shock. Elements such as the stretched out socks that have fallen to her ankles and the end papers, the first set with the footprints of a human and a beast, and the second showing a set of big and little human footprints. Life may be very hard for this young girl, but she has found a way to cope and shows much resilience on this book's pages.
