



The Song of Six Birds

By Rene Deetlefs

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When Lindiwe's mother first presents her with a flute, the young girl can hardly wait to play beautiful music on it. What a disappointment that the flute is empty and can only make a sound that causes the dog to howl! Fortunately, Lindiwe knows where to find music for her flute. She catches the trumpeting mahem of the crane, the bright tock-tock-tock of the hornbill--even the soft doo-doo-doo of the shy rainbird. With the song of six birds filling her new flute, Lindiwe hurries home, gathering the people of her village with the irresistible tune that she plays.

Rene Deetlefs, one of South Africa's most beloved children's book authors, has given this story an authentic voice and a lively rhythm that make it perfect for reading aloud. The lyrical text is complemented by Lyn Gilbert's brilliantly colored paintings of a busy, loving community and a soulfully musical young girl who knows exactly how to capture the sweet melodies of her homeland.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The South African team paired for *Tabu* and the *Dancing Elephants* here presents a sliver of a story centering on a girl "in search of music for her flute." Strolling through her African village, Lindiwe asks six birds--a crowned crane, hornbill, rainbird, hoopoe, Paradise flycatcher and wood owl--to "share" their sounds with her. When each obliges, its signature call (reproduced phonetically, e.g., "Whoo-hu... whoo-hu-hu") enters her instrument. As the winged creatures follow her home, the child plays her flute and the birds "all made music while she ran." Oddly, while readers see speech balloons of the birds' utterances entering the flute, no pictorial representation of the sounds reappears even though the text claims that "the air was filled the music of Lindiwe's flute--and the song of six birds." Gilbert's unadorned, brightly hued pictures portray Lindiwe's fellow villagers as an obviously appreciative audience, but the narrative fails to foster a similar enthusiasm in readers. Ages 3-9. (Dec.)

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From School Library Journal

Grade 1-3-Lindiwe has a new flute that makes a dreadful noise when she blows into it. As she journeys through the South African countryside looking for music, she meets different people and six birds that share their sounds with her. The repetitive nature of the story and the language used create a natural pace for reading aloud. Children will enjoy imitating the rhythmic birdcalls as the narrative carries them along to a happy celebration when Lindiwe's music calls the others to dance and sing through the night. Gilbert's flat, folk-art illustrations are reminiscent of South African designs and perfectly complement the text. The black outlined images of Lindiwe and the other villagers dressed in bright reds and oranges are set off by background colors of green and brown. The vivid illustrations capture the child's supportive community and the typical activities in her small village. A charming story for group reading.

Tali Balas, Ethnical Culture Fieldstone School, New York City

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From Kirkus Reviews

Deetlefs (*Tabu* and the *Dancing Elephants*, 1995, etc.) pleasingly blends equal measure of cultural geography, a field guide to the birds of Africa, and the fancies of a young girl filling her flute with song. Lindiwe rises one morning in her African village to find a flute next to her bed, a gift from her mother. Eager to make it sing, she gives it a terrific blow and a dreadful noise comes out. It's clearly time for fine tuning; she roams the countryside to gather music. A crowned crane gives her a ``mahem mahem," and a hornbill contributes its ``tock tock tock." The rainbird, the hoopoe, the paradise flycatcher, and the wood owl all tuck their calls into the flute, which subsequently powers an evening of spontaneous dance and revelry. As Lindiwe hunts her music, she encounters various members of her community--weavers, shepherd, medicine man--which imparts to readers a vivid sense of everyday life in the village. Gilbert takes pains to illustrate that aspect of the book in closely observed landscapes and village scenes. A merry, heartening tale. (Picture book. 3-9) -- *Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Florence Whitney:

Information is provisions for those to get better life, information currently can get by anyone from everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even restricted. What people must be consider whenever those information which is from the former life are difficult to be find than now could be taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you obtain the unstable resource then you understand it as your main information we will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen with you if you take The Song of Six Birds as the daily resource information.

Bernard Lewis:

Exactly why? Because this The Song of Six Birds is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will distress you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who have write the book in such remarkable way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book have got such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to delay having that book? If I were being you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

Jimmie Houck:

This The Song of Six Birds is great reserve for you because the content and that is full of information for you who also always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it information accurately using great arrange word or we can declare no rambling sentences included. So if you are read the idea hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but challenging core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having The Song of Six Birds in your hand like having the world in your arm, facts in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no guide that offer you world inside ten or fifteen second right but this guide already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt this?

Charles Rowe:

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