



Milo's Hat Trick

By Jon Agee



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Milo the Magnificent isn't magnificent at all. His card trick is hopeless. His rope trick is a mess. So the theater manager gives him one last chance: Milo has to pull a rabbit out of his hat at the next performance - or else. With carrot, string, and stick, Milo heads for the woods in search of a rabbit. Instead he catches a bear, a very clever bear, whose sensational hat trick just might save Milo's magic act.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Milo the magician is a mess. Not only does he botch his card tricks and tangle his rope tricks, but he can't even manage the old standby: pulling a rabbit from a hat. Spurred on by his manager's fury, Milo heads out of the city to find himself a rabbit. Dangling a carrot over his top hat, our magnificent magician captures... a bear. Here is where his luck turns. As it happens, this particular bear is adept at jumping into hats: "You just pretend your bones are made of rubber," he says. "It's a secret I learned from a rabbit." Returning to the city, (after a brief mix-up on the subway), the two quickly become a smash sensation. But after popping in and out of 762 hats, the bear is positively pooped. Can Milo carry on without his rubber-boned buddy?

Jon Agee illustrates his eccentric story with strange yet wonderful illustrations of blank-eyed, big-nosed, redheaded Milo in too-short trousers, and the cavalier, hat-hopping bear. Perfect comedic timing and a nutty plot ensure that readers of all ages will adore this tale of a misfit's triumph. (Ages 3 to 8) --*Emilie Coulter*

From Publishers Weekly

With marvelously economical narration and line drawings, Agee (*The Incredible Painting of Felix Clousseau*) conjures a formidable tale of a struggling magician. Milo could be Little Orphan Annie's uncle or a caricature of John Lennon. His brick-red mop of hair and thick mustache bracket pupil-less eyes and a voluminous nose, and a too-tight gray suit adds to his hangdog appearance. Onstage, he's no Houdini. He doesn't even have a rabbit for his act, and in trying to catch one (by dangling a carrot from a stick), he attracts a brown bear. This incident provides the absurd turning point of the story, for the immense animal executes a flawless dive into Milo's top hat ("You just pretend your bones are made of rubber. It's a secret I learned from a rabbit," the bear explains). Sitcom developments follow: the bear nonchalantly agrees to perform, Milo loses his furry friend on the train and the top hat walks the New York City streets on two clawed feet. Agee sets off the delectably far-fetched story line with pared-down charcoal-and-watercolor illustrations, and the strong planes and diagonals of his cityscapes recall Ben Katchor's comics. Understated writing complements the surreal images; when the hat finally reaches the theater, "Milo whistled and out popped the bear. 'Boy,' said the bear, 'am I glad to see you!'" In this accomplished book, Agee's plot twists are as surprising as, well, pulling a bear out of a hat. Ages 3-up.

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From School Library Journal

K-Gr 3-Make room on your shelves for this laugh-out-loud story about a rather untalented magician whose tricks are tangled, botched, and "just pathetic." He sets off in search of a rabbit for his bag of tricks when his boss gives him just one more chance to enhance his act. Instead of finding a rabbit, Milo catches and befriends a bear that teaches him a few tricks and they become a wildly successful magical duo. The theater manager is delighted, but the bear gets "pooped" from popping out of 762 hats, leaving Milo with a dilemma. Agee's amusing illustrations use interesting perspectives and close-up crops to focus on the characters and action. The deceptively simple lines provide just the right expressions and feelings for the bear. The book is an enchanting combination of a humorous text with rich vocabulary that children will enjoy and illustrations that extend the text and prompt prediction. Readers will love and identify with the failures and success of Milo the Magnificent and will be charmed by the bear and this endearing relationship. Agee has a hit on his hands with this fresh and funny crowd pleaser.-Helen Foster James, University of California at San Diego

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Allan Nguyen:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important action, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a book. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled Milo's Hat Trick. Try to stumble through book Milo's Hat Trick as your close friend. It means that it can to be your friend when you truly feel alone and beside that of course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortunated in your case. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know almost everything by the book. So , we need to make new experience and knowledge with this book.

Lisa Buffington:

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Tammy Jones:

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to get information. The information will make anyone to understand the condition of the world. The health of the world makes the information simpler to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, paper, book, and soon. You can see that now, a lot of publisher which print many kinds of book. Typically the book that recommended to you personally is Milo's Hat Trick this book consist a lot of the information with the condition of this world now. This specific book was represented so why is the world has grown up. The language styles that writer make usage of to explain it is easy to understand. Often the writer made some research when he makes this book. Honestly, that is why this book ideal all of you.

Chris Manley:

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