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From There To Here



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Synopsis

A little girl and her family have just moved across the country by train. Their new neighborhood in the city of Toronto is very different from their home in the Saskatchewan bush, and at first everything about it seems better than here. The little girl's dad has just finished building a dam across the Saskatchewan River, and his new project is to build a highway through Toronto. In Saskatchewan, he would come home for lunch every day, but now he doesn't come until supper. The family used to love to look at the stars and the northern lights dancing in the night sky. But in the city, all they can see is the glare from the streetlights. All the kids used to run and play together, but now older brother Doug has his own friends. Then one day there is a knock on the door. It is Anne, who lives kitty-corner and is also eight, going on nine, and suddenly living in Toronto takes on a whole new light. Laurel Croza and Matt James have beautifully captured the voice and intense feelings of a young child who, in the midst of upheaval, finds hope in her new surroundings.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 580 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 36 pages

Publisher: Groundwood Books (May 13, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1554983657

ISBN-13: 978-1554983650

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 7.5 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

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Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

K-Gr 3 • This continuation of the author's *I Know Here* (Groundwood, 2010) contrasts the experiences of a girl who had been living in the wilds of Saskatchewan with those of her new life in

Toronto. Her father's work in construction has brought about the move, and the stark differences in lifestyle drive the narrative: "There. We lived on a road—A road without a name. Here. We live on a street—Birch Street. I don't see any birch trees." There is a nostalgic tone to the spare text, as the girl recalls living in a trailer surrounded by nature's majesty and playing with the other workers' children who "traveled in a pack—all the kids, so long as we could keep up." Living in the city means asphalt and locked doors and streetlights dimming the stars, all factors that make the move more unsettling. The book can be read on its own but clearly works best as a companion title, for without its predecessor the girl's former life loses some of its emotional heft. For example, one needs to know that she was the only third grader in her one-room school in order to fully appreciate the neighbor Anne, who meets the moving truck the afternoon they arrive and announces that she, too, is "Eight, almost nine." As in the first book, expressionistic acrylic and ink illustrations add depth to the story, as do the marvelous endpapers depicting a map of central Canada. A satisfying sequel to *I Know Here*. —Teri Markson, Los Angeles Public Library

Finalist for the Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award
 Finalist for the Silver Birch Express Award
 Cooperative Children's Book Center Choice
 A Canadian Children's Book Centre Best Books for Kids and Teens
 Readers will feel these immersive, dreamlike images have taken them somewhere far from home. —
 New York Times
 "A low-key, emotionally true approach to a common and usually upsetting childhood experience." —Kirkus, starred review
 "Readers will come to understand that while 'here' and 'there' are different, different is OK, especially when you have the support of a new friend." —Publishers Weekly, starred review
 "James's naive style has an infectious, unfettered energy. Croza's spare text captures the narrator's feelings of displacement with poetic immediacy." —Quill & Quire, starred review
 "The palette of the Toronto scenes is predominately blue-sky sunny, reflecting the story's ultimate optimism . . . we know that the ride begun at the close of the book promises both amity and adventure." —Horn Book
 "Little ones struggling to adjust to a new home or missing their old one will find comfort here." —Booklist
 "Expressionistic acrylic and ink illustrations add depth to the story, as do the marvelous endpapers." —School Library Journal
 "This is a touching evocation of the mixed feelings of longing and hope that accompany a move. Recommended." —Library Media Connections

When a girl moves to a new town, everything feels different and dark, until she finds a new friend. Young readers of this longer picture book, ages 5-8, will discover that new places can be new and

different, but also happy, too.

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