



Smoky Mountain Rose: An Appalachian Cinderella (Picture Puffins)

By Alan Schroeder

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I reckon ye heard o' Cinderella, but lemme tell you a story 'bout a sweet li'l thing named Rose? Set in the Appalachian Mountains and told in a lilting dialect that just begs to be read aloud, this is a unique and lively adaptation of the traditional Cinderella story. Complete with an enchanting protagonist, a glass slipper, and a fairy godmother who just happens to be a hog, Smoky Mountain Rose is a joy to read again and again.

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Smoky Mountain Rose: An Appalachian Cinderella (Picture Puffins) By Alan Schroeder Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 4. Schroeder has taken the classic Perrault fairy tale and recast it "smack in the heart o' the Smoky Mountains." He begins his retelling with the directive, "Now lis'en," and continues to relate the familiar events in lilting mountain dialect with plenty of homespun humor. Seb, the love interest here, is a "real rich feller?made his fortune in sowbellies and grits." Rose's transformation takes place through intervention of a kindhearted, articulate hog. The tale concludes, "To this day, Rose and Seb are still livin' there, and folks reckon they're 'bout the happiest twosome in all o' Tarbelly Creek," giving the story a contemporary bent. Everyone knows what's going to happen, but getting there is half the fun. Sneed's slick, stylized watercolors seem at first to be out of sync with the down-home narrative, but it quickly becomes clear that the disparate union is a successful one. The paintings are realistically rendered but slightly distorted?figures are elongated and angular, features exaggerated, and perspectives askew. People are clad in fashions of the 1940s and the lush Appalachian landscape is always in evidence. The fanciful, but decidedly quirky artwork effectively informs readers, in case they didn't already know it, that there's magic in them thar hills. An appealing all-American addition to the canon of "Cinderella" variants.?Luann Toth, School Library Journal

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 4[^]-7, younger for reading aloud. Putting a down-home and downright enchanting Smoky Mountain spin on Perrault's classic Cinderella tale, Schroeder shows Rose, a trapper's dutiful and loving daughter, at the mercy of her father's "fearsome" second wife and two stepsisters, who are so mean "they'd steal flies from a blind spider." Schroeder's prince is Seb, a "rich feller--made his fortune in sowbellies and grits"; the palace ball is a square dance in Seb's barn; and the fairy godmother is a talking pig. The glass slippers remain: although Rose allows they're not too practical for square dancing, her dainty foot slips easily inside when Seb, searching the countryside for the shoe's owner, has her try it on. Sneed's watercolors are rich and intense; his angular lines draw readers into the action, whether the perspective is up close for Rose's feet or set back for scenes from a distance. From the opening line's enlarged, boldfaced, attention-grabbing "Now lis'en," this spirited rendition begs to be told or read out loud for sheer enjoyment and for enrichment in folklore studies. *Ellen Mandel*

From Kirkus Reviews

Schroeder's version of this tale is based directly on the familiar 17th-century Perrault tale, but written in an Appalachian dialect and placed ``smack in the heart o' the Smoky Mountains." Cinderella--Rose in this tale--is the gentle daughter of a father who dies not long after he remarries. Her stepsisters and stepmother are cut from the usual bitter cloth, but there are some twists: The role of the fairy godmother is played by a huge hog, and the last image is of Rose (still wearing the slippers) and her handsome feller in old age, rocking on their porch swing. The watercolor illustrations owe much to the powerful, elongated figures and skewed perspective of American painter Thomas Hart Benton. The action is often seen up from ground level: an ant's-eye view of the hog, and Rose's glass pumps as a frame for her horse-drawn wagon, are strong and unusual images. A particularly nice touch is that pretty Rose has ordinary brown hair, while her stepsisters, homely though they are, are the more traditionally glamorous blonde and brunette. (Picture book/folklore. 5-8) -- Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lois Jennings:

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