



**The Grey Lady and
the Strawberry Snatcher**

by MOLLY BANG

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The Grey Lady loves strawberries. But so does the Strawberry Snatcher, and unfortunately for the Grey Lady he is not far away and getting closer all the time. Past flower shops and bakeries he stalks her, silently, steadily, biding his time. He pursues her by foot along haunting red-brick paths, and then by skateboard into the mysterious depths of a swamp both beautiful and terrifying.

Closer and closer he gets, and yet the Grey Lady escapes him, in fantastic and marvelously improbable ways, until, in the heart of the forest the Strawberry Snatcher discovers instead -- blackberries!

In this wordless allegory, author-illustrator Molly Bang has created a visual feast full of surprise and wonder. Her lively tale skillfully blends fantasy, suspense, and humor, and the magnificent illustrations are a treat for young and old alike.

The Grey Lady and the Strawberry Snatcher Details

Date : Published May 1st 1996 by Aladdin (first published 1980)

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Author : Molly Bang

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From Reader Review The Grey Lady and the Strawberry Snatcher for online ebook

Robert Davis says

**** Caldecott Honor (1981) ****

Wordless story of a woman dressed in grey who avoids a Blue Meanie trying to snatch her strawberries. Apparently, the Blue Meanie has a bad case of foot fungus, because wherever he/she steps, mushrooms appear in his/her footprints. o_0

Wilmarie says

One of the 1981 Caldecott Honor Medal Winner's was Bangs wordless book. This story illustrated about a lady dressed in grey who live strawberries; but so did the strawberry snatcher. He followed the lady through town, past flower shops and bakeries, meanwhile, trying to be inconspicuous. But the old lady goes fast and starts heading towards areas with more grey color in them. The snatcher follows the old lady through a swamp Wenger things start being tricky, for the background keeps adding more grey to it. There is a point where the snatcher looks here and there, but the old lady is not to be found. Then, deep inside the forest, the snatcher sees a blackberry tree and tastes them. He apparently has a liking towards them, since he forgets all about the old lady and her strawberries. In the end, the old lady brings the strawberries home and her family feasts on them.

This wordless book is an excellent addition to any children's library. It contains creative and expressive illustrations, which are a necessity when no words are involved. You can clearly observe the thrill of the chase as the snatcher follows around the grey lady. You can also see the confidence the lady had to get herself out of a situation which makes her vulnerable; and heading towards camouflage to hide herself from the strawberry thief. Children will love to put words for the story while they see the pictures.

I consider that this story contains illustrations that are quite vivid and creative. You know the snatcher is up to no good, since every step he takes, he leaves mushrooms behind. You can also see that he is swift and sneaky as he hurried to follow the lady around and kept on it. The illustrations are great, but some may find them too creepy. They do get darker and darker as she gets closer to escape. This may be a problem for kids who scare easily. But this notwithstanding, I consider this book is appropriate and positive for children to read.

Ben says

This book's haunting paintings are filled with wonder and mystery. The skateboarding woman in a sari with a bucket of eels. The mushrooms bloom in the footsteps of the Strawberry Snatcher. These and many other details fill the lush pages with incredible beauty and depth.

Jessica says

Most pictures are worth a thousand words, but the ones in this book could pay off our national debt. Molly Bang's book makes a good case for the abolition of written language, not to mention birth control. I personally can't wait to introduce my offspring to the Malaysian skateboarding woman with her bucket of eels, nor to soothe them through night terrors inflicted by horror of the Strawberry Snatcher.

Best book ever not written.

Jenny says

A wordless picture book of a woman dressed all in grey who has some delicious strawberries. But a creepy creature is following her, trying to snatch the strawberries. The strawberry snatcher is creepy and the color scheme and lines made this book feel spooky. There's nothing wrong, necessarily with spooky...perhaps I might have enjoyed this right around Halloween...but it wasn't enjoyable for me to "read." I actually shivered at one point as the lady and snatcher are both in the forest. Not the book for me, at least not today.

Amy says

This is an intriguing wordless book. The pictures are so surreal and strange, but somehow they are quite engaging. Are they neat, or are they disturbing? I can't quite make up my mind, and each time I look at the book my opinion changes. I guess this is what art is supposed to do to a viewer.

My nephew really seemed to like this book, and he asked me to read it to him again. My niece enjoyed it, as well, because she likes hide and seek books, which this kind of is. She also found the pictures to be neatly strange, and she seemed to puzzle over them as much as I did. The story is a happy one, despite the surreal quality of the pictures, and it seems to celebrate finding creative and effective solutions to difficult problems. The kids liked it, and I found it very intriguing--I guess that warrants four stars.

Karen says

"Weird and creepy" are the words that come to mind when describing this book. So do "not a very strong story". Yes, it is a wordless picture book, but that does not mean the story should be lacking.

Mitchell says

Caldecott Honor Award Winning story book. But too creepy. And too odd. Definitely interesting and creative but not in a good way. And I plain didn't like the art.

Lindsay Rogers says

The illustrations are amazing! A blue strawberry snatcher follows a grey lady and tries to take her strawberries. The woman sees that she is being followed and tries to evade the snatcher. The pictures communicate the story perfectly!

Kelly says

This is a Caldecott Honor book, but I just can't figure out why. It didn't appeal to me at all.

Lisa Vegan says

I love to read, and I love words, but I also love art and I have found many wordless picture books that I've admired and enjoyed.

This wordless picture book was not my cup of tea at all.

It was too creepy for me; sometimes I like creepy, but not here.

It was a Caldecott Honor Book, but I wasn't wild about the illustrations. Once again, they were too creepy, and too garish, and just not to my taste. I liked parts of several of the illustrations and enjoyed a few of them, but overall I didn't like them that much. The lady's face, the way it was painted, seemed very unappealing to me. (I have liked at least one other Molly Bang book though.)

So, my view definitely differs from the vast majority of Goodreads members (50% gave it 5 stars!) and probably most other readers too, but that's just the way it is. It could be my mood, but I'm not willing to reread this to check that theory out; I have too many other books I'd rather read. I don't want to dissuade anyone from trying out this book because it seems to be appreciated by most, but I can't personally recommend it.

I did like the cover illustration a lot!

Manybooks says

Although I can to a certain and very small and minute point appreciate Molly Bang's illustrative acumen and craft, I just do not at all like this book, I just do not even remotely appreciate The Grey Lady and the Strawberry Snatcher (its Caldecott Honour designation quite notwithstanding). Yes, the illustrations in this wordless picture book offering are indeed expressive and bold, but especially the strawberry snatcher is presented and depicted as much much too massively creepy for my personal tastes, and truly, even potentially offensive in appearance (and as a child, he or rather it, would almost certainly have given me nightmares, especially the long and pointed grasping fingers, with their weirdly reddish tips). I guess if The

Grey Lady and the Strawberry Snatcher were not a wordless picture book (and thus, of course, entirely dependent on its illustrations), I might have enjoyed this a wee bit more (as I always find I can handle a creepy and frightening narrative much better and much more easily than likewise uncanny illustrations, and the visuals of the blue slinking, creeping and constantly grasping snatcher are simply too chilling and weird for me, and I actually even tend to think that the main protagonist, the Grey Lady, is illustrated in a rather unflattering manner as well, not in a frightening manner, but in a fashion that I have personally not all that much enjoyed). And thus, but one star for Molly Bang's The Grey Lady and the Strawberry Snatcher (although I do realise that illustrations and whether one likes them, whether one can handle them, is often an entirely personal matter and thus I would never go so far as not recommending this wordless picture book, but do leave the caveat that I for one have found especially the depictions of the Strawberry Snatcher frightening and the stuff of nightmares).

SamZ says

[finds the blackberry bush and has lost his hat in enjoyment of the new fruit! (hide spoiler)]

Anina says

One of my favorite classic children's books, I had this when I was around 5 yrs. and used to spend hours staring at it because the pictures are so detailed and, well, creepy. A really good book to get little imaginations brewing (and hopefully not crying!). DCPL peeps, we all just got a new copy, check it out.

Cheryl says

[a happy ending for th
