

Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

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The Man with the Violin.

Stinson, Kathy (Author) , Petrii, Dušan (Illustrator)

Oct 2013. 32 p. Annick, hardcover, \$19.95. (9781554515653).

Children and adults should both read this book, for it affirms the former while chastising the latter—like Dylan and his mother, there are plenty of children who pay attention while adults do not. Loosely based on the true story of Joshua Bell, who played his Stradivarius in a D.C. train station and was barely noticed, this begins with Dylan noticing and being quite moved. The music stays with Dylan, coloring his drab day and, to his utter delight, reappearing on the radio later on. The story is simple, but the language has its own musicality, replete with alliteration, onomatopoeia, and sentences that linger and float, abruptly halt, and quickly resume. Petrii's gorgeous illustrations in graphite and watercolor are as light and lucid as they are satirical. Featureless, careworn adults drift through life, while Dylan's world is always transformed by Bell's music into a rainbow of color and imagination. This reminds us all to look at the world through the eyes of children and be delighted by the serendipitous moments that surround us.

— *Amina Chaudhri*