

## The Man with the Violin

Written by Kathy Stinson; illustrated by Dušan Petričić

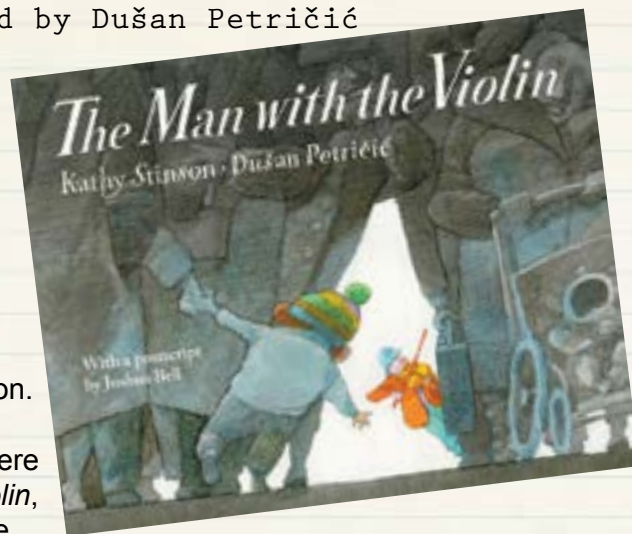
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Reviewed by Éthel Gamache

Ages 5-8



Do we take the time to appreciate life little wonders? An experiment was undertaken where the renowned American violinist Joshua Bell played his Stradivarius for more than 40 minutes in a Washington metro station. Of the thousands of commuters, few stopped to enjoy the performance. More children wanted to stop, but were ushered on by their guardian. In *The Man with the Violin*, we follow Dylan who notices his surroundings. We see how the music enchants him, the magical effects of discovering a taste for music.

The story is well written and develops softly. The illustrations are rich: the play with colours embodies the music, the use of simple dark scribbles, recalling grawlix, represents perfectly the sounds of a commute. Both the lyrics and graphics have a moving poetic quality.

This book allows children and adults alike to appreciate little day-to-day wonders, to find solace in a rushed world, and to discover the joys of music. To read with some 'Joshua Bell' on in the background! □