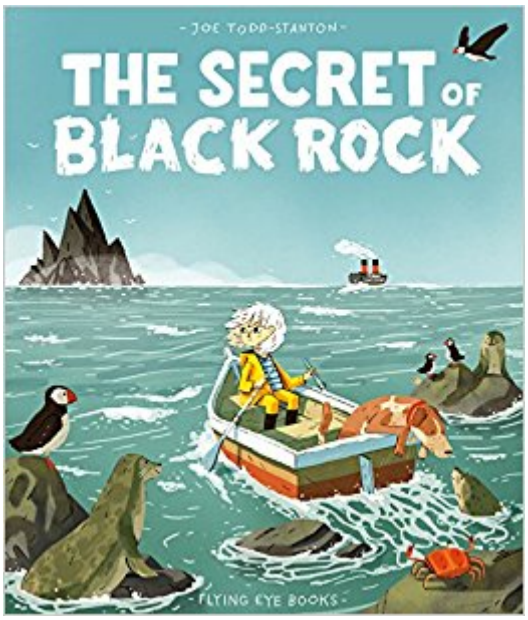
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# The Secret Of Black Rock




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## Synopsis

Erin loves to lie on the jetty, looking for the weirdest fish in the sea—the weirder, the better! And she knows the best ones must be further out, where her mum won’t let her go . . .Out there in the deepest sea lies the Black Rock: a huge, dark and spiky mass that is said to destroy any boats that come near it! Can Erin uncover the truth behind this mysterious legend?Joe Todd-StantonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s first picture book, Arthur and the Golden Rope, was published by Flying Eye Books in 2016.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 660 (What’s this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Flying Eye Books (June 13, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1911171259

ISBN-13: 978-1911171256

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 0.4 x 10.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #130,548 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 inÃ Â Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Ecosystems > Coastal #191 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Environment #2137 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Science, Nature & How It Works

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

Todd-StantonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s tale is, at first glance, a deceptively simple tale of acceptance and bravery. However, he deftly infuses his narrative with quiet depth, including a positive ecological slant in which nature wins over machines, and portrays ErinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s single mother succeeding in a typically male-dominated profession. The illustrations are dazzling and vibrantly hued, the rich palette just right for the resplendent undersea scenes that adroitly float young readersÃ¢â ¬â„¢ sense of magic just under the surface of the mundane. A winner on many levels.Ã¢â ¬â œKirkus Reviews, STARRED REVIEWThe gentle environmental message takes on a kind of magic in Todd-StantonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s pictures of Erin suspended in the ocean among incandescent jellyfish or

facing down a monstrous, weaponised fishing fleet in the moonlight. A young artist to watch.Ã¢â ¬â œThe GuardianA fairytale world is created that should enchant children as much as the old-fashioned illustrations that fit the story perfectly.Ã¢â ¬â œYouth Services Book ReviewThe layers of ocean life and the benign Black Rock are beautifully rendered in this wonderfully tactile hardback, while the gently delivered environmental message adds a welcome real-life depth to the modern mythic tale.Ã¢â ¬â œIrish TimesAn original picture book story that is superbly illustrated from cover to cover, Joe Todd-Stanton's "The Secret of Black Rock" is a compelling and entertaining read for children ages 5 to 8, making it an extraordinary and highly recommended addition to family, elementary school, and community library collections.Ã¢â ¬â œMidwest Book ReviewThis is an exceptionally illustrated modern folk-tale [Ã¢â ¬Â] You will love Erin and her large heart, courage, sense of adventure, and ability to stand up for what she believes in!Ã¢â ¬â œA Story A DayThis book is truly an amazing read! [Ã¢â ¬Â] The illustration is magnificent! Ã¢â ¬â œHow Useful It Is

Joe Todd-Stanton grew up in Brighton and was taught to draw by his mother, who is also an illustrator. He studied at Bristol University, receiving a first class degree in Illustration. Stanton has been commissioned to work for clients such as Oxford University Press, Usborne Publish and Aquila magazine. His first picture book, Arthur and the Golden Rope, was published by Flying Eye Books in 2016.

I'd like to try it again next year when the grandchildren (3.5,5,) are a little older.

I debated whether to give this book 3 or 4 stars. It's a quality hardback book. The pictures are colorful and engaging. The story itself, though, is where I am confused. One reviewer pointed out that this is too scary for little children. Yes and no. As someone who grew up hearing fairy tales, this is pretty tame, but some kids are very sensitive. It is billed as a children's environmental story, but I don't think the kids will get an environmental lesson out of it. The story is just weird. A little girl disobeys her parents and sneaks onto a boat. She gets thrown overboard. Here the story switches into fantasy mode. She is rescued by the "dangerous" black rock and tries to tell the adults that it is a nice living thing, but they don't believe her. When they take their boats out to destroy the "rock" they discover that she is right and don't destroy it, but build a lighthouse on it instead. This book might work for a library but is not particularly engaging book to give a child as a gift. So, so.

What’s great?- The illustrations are really nice.- My kid loves this book.What’s not so great?- The story rewards children who disobey their parents to do something really dangerous. In this case, the kid goes on a boat in the ocean at night! The kid eventually goes overboard where in real life would yield a sad story in the news. However in the book some magical island saves her. This is just a terrible lesson for children: don’t worry about doing something both stupid and dangerous that your parents warned you about because a magical creature will save you.- While the book’s pages look great and feel ok, they smell toxic. It’s not as bad as the cheap Dr Seuss book I got a few years ago, but it took weeks before this book mostly aired out. I would rather pay a few dollars more for pages that don’t smell toxic. I’d like to add that my sense of smell isn’t great.

This is a beautiful book. It has some great illustrations and the cover is high quality with a glossy feel to it. My 3 year old niece loved telling me all the fish and animals she saw, and seemed pretty wrapped up in the illustrations. It is a short read at about 5 minutes, and pretty easy to understand. The story could use some work however. There is nothing scary at all in it, and it is certainly appropriate for small kids, but I’m not sure there is a really great message. The "secret" of Black Rock is that it is a living being. The villagers want to destroy it, but the protagonist, Erin, is saved from drowning by it, so they change their minds and end up putting a lighthouse on the top of it. I don’t think my niece understood the story (and neither did I), but she liked the pictures. I’ll probably read it to her again but it likely won’t be one of the books she begs for over and over each night like The Night Gardener.

The Secret of Black Rock is Joe Todd-StantonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s first childrenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s book and it is obvious (from a data set of one at least) that the artwork is his forte as the picture truly are great and sure to mesmerize a child- bright, colorful, with eye catching details, but the story itself is..well, not destined to be a classic.So, the book centers on a small fishing village that has a mysterious island that appears at random places over the years. Erin, a small girl living with her mother longs to go out on the fishing trawler with her but every time she tries to hide, her dog sniffers her out. One day she succeeds in hiding and the trawler sets sail but Erin falls overboard when they come in sight of the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Black RockÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•- she sinks in to the sea but lo and behold, the mysterious island turns out to be a giant (but gentle) rock monster (the rocks sticking out above water make up his hair). The monster saves her and she returns home to tell the villagers her discovery. The adults, far from being happy make plans to sail out and destroy the monster but Erin gets there first and saves the monster by showing the fisherman (and her mom) all

the fish who live in the islandÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s ecosystem. They build a lighthouse on top of the monster and they all live happily ever after.Ok- so- interesting plot but in all fairness, my two boys do like books about monsters so the book did get a lot of requests in the first month we had the book. I wonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t comment on suitability of message or supposed themes like environmentalism- there are themes parents can choose to point out or not to their children. The true delight of this book is the artwork- especially the monster and fish pages. My two year old would make me stop on those pages for minutes as he pointed out all the fish. Overall, itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a cute book with great artwork and a so-so story. Not a bad purchase at the listed price.

We'd not read Joe Todd-Stanton's previous effort, Arthur & the Golden Rope, before picking up The Secret of Black Rock. What appealed to me, as a parent of an adventurous daughter, was the adventure story featuring a female protagonist. Secondarily was the story and art. All three delivered in a big way.Essentially, the Secret of Black Rock is the story of Erin who wants to get to the bottom of this "black rock" that keeps causing ships to crash in her local harbor. She takes a boat and her trusty dog and sets out to do so! What ensues is a fairly simple, but simply lovely adventure story about being brave and making discoveries.Accompanying is are Todd-Stanton's BEAUTIFUL drawings, which give the book a decidedly folksy "Cape Cod" feel that, somehow, make the story feel even more authentic. The colors are rich and each page Is filled with tons of 'stuff;' I spent about 20 minutes on the amazing two-page fold out image with my daughter, naming sea creatures and just looking at the beauty.The Secret of Black Rock has become a staple in my home, and I eagerly look forward to more from Joe Todd-Stanton.HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

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