



The Song of Six Birds

By Rene Deetlefs

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When Lindiwe's mother first presents her with a flute, the young girl can hardly wait to play beautiful music on it. What a disappointment that the flute is empty and can only make a sound that causes the dog to howl! Fortunately, Lindiwe knows where to find music for her flute. She catches the trumpeting mahem of the crane, the bright tock-tocki-tock of the hornbill--even the soft doo-doo-doo of the shy rainbird. With the song of six birds filling her new flute, Lindiwe hurries home, gathering the people of her village with the irresistible tune that she plays.

Rene Deetlefs, one of South Africa's most beloved children's book authors, has given this story an authentic voice and a lively rhythm that make it perfect for reading aloud. The lyrical text is complemented by Lyn Gilbert's brilliantly colored paintings of a busy, loving community and a soulfully musical young girl who knows exactly how to capture the sweet melodies of her homeland.

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The Song of Six Birds By Rene Deetlefs Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The South African team paired for *Tabu and the Dancing Elephants* here presents a sliver of a story centering on a girl "in search of music for her flute." Strolling through her African village, Lindiwe asks six birds--a crowned crane, hornbill, rainbird, hoopoe, Paradise flycatcher and wood owl--to "share" their sounds with her. When each obliges, its signature call (reproduced phonetically, e.g., "Whoo-hu... whoo-hu-hu") enters her instrument. As the winged creatures follow her home, the child plays her flute and the birds "all made music while she ran." Oddly, while readers see speech balloons of the birds' utterances entering the flute, no pictorial representation of the sounds reappears even though the text claims that "the air was filled the music of Lindiwe's flute--and the song of six birds." Gilbert's unadorned, brightly hued pictures portray Lindiwe's fellow villagers as an obviously appreciative audience, but the narrative fails to foster a similar enthusiasm in readers. Ages 3-9. (Dec.)

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From School Library Journal

Grade 1-3-Lindiwe has a new flute that makes a dreadful noise when she blows into it. As she journeys through the South African countryside looking for music, she meets different people and six birds that share their sounds with her. The repetitive nature of the story and the language used create a natural pace for reading aloud. Children will enjoy imitating the rhythmic birdcalls as the narrative carries them along to a happy celebration when Lindiwe's music calls the others to dance and sing through the night. Gilbert's flat, folk-art illustrations are reminiscent of South African designs and perfectly complement the text. The black outlined images of Lindiwe and the other villagers dressed in bright reds and oranges are set off by background colors of green and brown. The vivid illustrations capture the child's supportive community and the typical activities in her small village. A charming story for group reading.

Tali Balas, Ethnical Culture Fieldstone School, New York City

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From Kirkus Reviews

Deetlefs (*Tabu and the Dancing Elephants*, 1995, etc.) pleasingly blends equal measure of cultural geography, a field guide to the birds of Africa, and the fancies of a young girl filling her flute with song. Lindiwe rises one morning in her African village to find a flute next to her bed, a gift from her mother. Eager to make it sing, she gives it a terrific blow and a dreadful noise comes out. It's clearly time for fine tuning; she roams the countryside to gather music. A crowned crane gives her a "mahem mahem," and a hornbill contributes its "tock tocki tock." The rainbird, the hoopoe, the paradise flycatcher, and the wood owl all tuck their calls into the flute, which subsequently powers an evening of spontaneous dance and revelry. As Lindiwe hunts her music, she encounters various members of her communityweavers, shepherd, medicine man which imparts to readers a vivid sense of everyday life in the village. Gilbert takes pains to illustrate that aspect of the book in closely observed landscapes and village scenes. A merry, heartening tale. (Picture book. 3-9) -- Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Arthur West:

The book *The Song of Six Birds* make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable more increase. Book can for being your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem with your subject. If you can make looking at a book *The Song of Six Birds* for being your habit, you can get far more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. You can know everything if you like available and read a e-book *The Song of Six Birds*. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this publication?

Phyllis Callahan:

This *The Song of Six Birds* book is not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book will be information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This specific *The Song of Six Birds* without we recognize teach the one who looking at it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't be worry *The Song of Six Birds* can bring once you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even telephone. This *The Song of Six Birds* having excellent arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

Salina Rodriguez:

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Phillip Darrah:

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