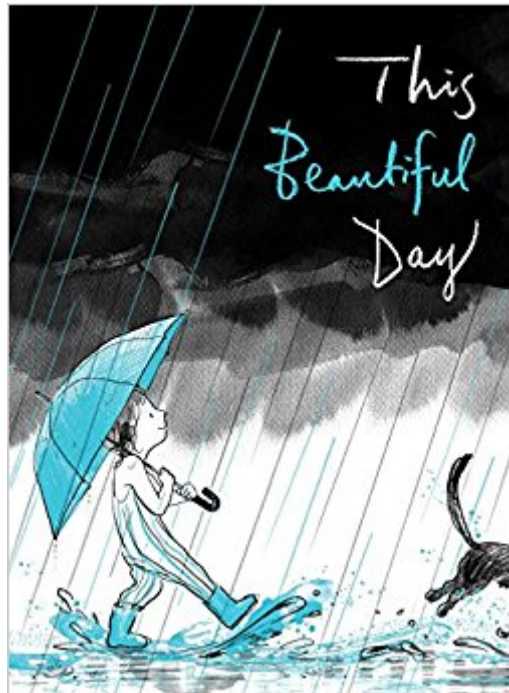




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This Beautiful Day



Synopsis

In the tradition of *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, acclaimed author Richard Jackson and award-winning illustrator Suzy Lee prove you can chase away any grey and gloomy day with just the right attitude, and a little bit of color. Why spend a rainy day inside? As three children embrace a grey day, they seem to beckon the bright as they jump, splash, and dance outside, chasing the rain away. The day's palette shifts from greys to a hint of blue, then more blue. Then green! Then yellow! Until the day is a technicolor extravaganza that would make Mary Poppins proud. A joyous homage to the power of a positive attitude.

Book Information

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

With colors and compositions conceived to celebrate the allure of water, the book jacket and opening scenes immediately recall Lee's *The Wave* (2008). Three bored children, stuck inside while it pours, are rendered in pencil, with paper-white skin. When the boy turns on the radio, blue swirls of music animate the space; even the stuffed rabbit's ears perk up. As dance connects music and water, the children skip out into the puddles. Jackson's words wisely allow room for Lee's imagination. He makes no reference to rain; that interpretation of a "beautiful day" is the illustrator's. The story is propelled by the author's spirited verses, featuring internal and end-of-line rhymes that scan with only an occasional bump: "This beautiful day / so great for

parading, // for cartwheeling fun / or hiding / and seeking // or gliding / and sliding / in this marigold sun." Listeners will track the momentum of these kinetic kids as they swing from trees with friends, parachuting back to earth with umbrellas *À la Mary Poppins*. Digitally manipulated acrylics in summery shades fill the pages as the day brightens, offering another take on the title. Popsicles, paired with an e.e. cummings-esque arrangement of "doodly-doo"s and parenthetical bodily sounds, relax this jazzy, pizzazz-y romp *until the wind whips up*. A delightful depiction of the ability of children to find joy regardless of atmospheric conditions. (Picture book. 3-6) *★* (Kirkus, STARRED REVIEW 6/1/17)

Richard Jackson is a long-time editor at Atheneum Books for Young Readers and the critically acclaimed author of *Have A Look, Says Book*, illustrated by Kevin Hawkes. In starred reviews, *School Library Journal* touts it as a "celebration of sharing a book together" and *Publishers Weekly* proclaimed it "a shoe-in for the bedtime rotation." He is also the author of *All Ears, All Eyes*, illustrated by Katherine Tillotson. Recognized for his distinctive taste in children's literature, in 2005 he was named as the ALSC May Hill Arbutnot Honor Lecturer. He lives with his wife and near his grandchildren in Towson, Maryland. Suzy Lee is the critically acclaimed illustrator and author of many books for children including *Wave*, which was awarded the Gold Medal for Original Art by the Society of Illustrators and was a *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book; *Shadow*, which was a *New York Times* Best Illustrated Children's Book; and *Open This Little Book*, which was awarded the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for Excellence in Children's Literature (Picture Book Honor Winner). She lives and works in Seoul, South Korea.

Three children are spending a gray day inside as it pours rain. Then they start to dance and twirl, pulling blue into their day. They head outside with umbrellas and boots, walking through puddles, jumping and stomping. The rain ends and other come out with yellow and pink umbrellas and clothes, the colors starting to fill the page. Their umbrellas float up into the sky that is now blue with white clouds. The group of children play together in the field of flowers, climbing trees, rescuing umbrellas, and then treats back at home on a lovely day. Jackson's text is filled with motion and rhythm. It invites readers to swirl and twirl with the characters on the page. The action words in the text zing and zip, moving the book forward even as they celebrate the bad weather and move to the sunshine. There is a sense of optimism throughout the book, an acceptance and joy of rainy weather and then a true delight when it becomes sunny

later. Lee's illustrations are lovely. They use color so skillfully, showing first the gray day while the children are quietly playing alone and then the single swirls of blue that color the children and their clothing. The book slowly unfolds with color, until it bursts like the meadow of flowers and the sun in the trees. Share this one on rainy and sunny days. Just have umbrellas and boots ready along with popsicles too. Appropriate for ages 2-4.

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