



The Dancing Pig

By Judy Sierra

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Who says pigs don't dance? They do if they're determined to foil the plans of an evil witch who wants to cook two little girls and eat them for dinner. Bestselling author Judy Sierra turns this Balinese Hansel and Gretel story into a boisterous adventure complete with a graceful dancing pig, an ingenious talking mouse, a melodious frog band--and a frightful witch who gets her just desserts!

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

PreSchool-Grade 3-Using a common motif, this Balinese folktale tells of a mother who leaves her twin daughters home alone with a warning against opening the door to strangers. An ogress poses as the girls' mother, tricks them into unlocking the door, and carries them off with the intention of cooking them. When the mother finds her children gone, help comes from the family's pig, who promises to bring the sisters home safely. To accomplish the rescue, the animal dresses up in a sarong and is accompanied by a tiny frog band and a mouse bearing a torch. The odd little procession succeeds in drawing the ogress out of her house to dance while the mouse frees the twins. The vibrant acrylic, watercolor, and gouache illustrations represent the flora, fauna, and costumes accurately in an appropriate folk-art style. The charms of the book include the sarong-draped pig dancing and peeking coyly over her fan; the frog band; and the small, helpful mouse. The ogress Rangsasa, with flamelike hair and clawlike, red nails, is suitably scary but, in true folklore style, perishes in the flames of her house. A source note lends authority, a brief statement gives cultural background information, and a pronunciation guide helps with unfamiliar words though it does not give definitions. An additional purchase, particularly for larger folklore collections.

Kate McClelland, Perrot Memorial Library, Greenwich, CT

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From [Booklist](#)

Twin sisters Klodan and Klonching must stay at home while their mother goes to sell seeds in the market. Lurking in the forest shadows is the Rangsasa, an ogress who would like to snatch them away. Mother admonishes, "When I return I will knock on the door three times and say, 'Klodan, Klonching. It's your mother. Let me in.'" How the Rangsasa manages to trick the sisters--and how their mother, with the help of the dancing pig, comes to the rescue--is what sets this lovely tale from Bali apart from thematically similar stories. Sierra, a professional storyteller, deftly catches the rhythm, humor, and suspense of an oral tale. Her well-paced prose is sprinkled with Balinese words; a pronunciation guide is thoughtfully included. Sweetwater's bright, patterned illustrations sometimes fall short in their underlying use of line and color, but they lovingly depict the warmth between mother and daughters, as well as the whimsy inherent in a dancing pig and four frog musicians. An interesting, charming addition to any folktale collection. *Tim Arnold*

From Kirkus Reviews

Sierra's retelling of this Balinese folktale has a kind of mesmerizing uninflected delivery that chugs attractively along, while Sweetwater's artwork flickers with vivid folk imagery draped in tropical colors. Klodan and Klonching care so much for the family pig that they dance the classic Legong to keep it entertained. Also benefiting from the liquid movements and kindnesses of the girls are the house mouse and the band of frogs who provide the beat for the dance. An ogress, the Rangsasa, jealously watches the proceedings from the woods until one day when the girls' mother must go to the market to scare up some cash for the family needs. The Rangsasa tricks the girls into opening the door which their mother had expressly forbidden and steals them off to her cottage to eat them. The animals intervene in a crafty maneuver that involves the pig's entrancing interpretation of the Legong. The girls are freed and they make off with a boodle of the ogress's wealth she won't need it, having been engulfed in the flames of her cottage as is just. If a bit tidy and pat, this is a culturally transporting tale from a realm that most readers will find quite exotic. (glossary) (Picture book. 4-8) -- Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Cardona:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or even goal; it means that e-book has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. These are reading whatever they take because their hobby will be reading a book. How about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, man feel need book after they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you will want this The Dancing Pig.

James Robbins:

This The Dancing Pig are usually reliable for you who want to become a successful person, why. The key reason why of this The Dancing Pig can be one of several great books you must have is actually giving you more than just simple reading through food but feed a person with information that perhaps will shock your earlier knowledge. This book is actually handy, you can bring it everywhere you go and whenever your conditions in the e-book and printed people. Beside that this The Dancing Pig forcing you to have an enormous of experience for example rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that we understand it useful in your day action. So , let's have it appreciate reading.

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