



The Fossil Girl

By Catherine Brighton

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The Fossil Girl By Catherine Brighton Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #5168680 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Millbrook Press
- Published on: 1999-03-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .31" h x 8.65" w x 10.89" l,
- Binding: Library Binding
- 32 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 2-4-In this bicentennial year of Anning's birth, Brighton presents a comic-strip style account of the British paleontologist's legendary childhood discovery of the first ichthyosaur skeleton. Like Laurence Anholt, whose picture book biography tells Mary's childhood in *Stone Girl, Bone Girl* (Orchard, 1999), Brighton fictionalizes in re-creating the amazing find. Her spare telling features a determined, somewhat older-looking Mary, her brother Joe, and their widowed mother, whose modest seaside home and curiosity shop are battered one stormy night. While Mary and Joe search for new fossil treasures to replenish their lost livelihood, they discover the enormous unknown creature embedded high in the cliff. In a scenario of derring-do, Mary mounts a crude wooden tower built by a neighbor to lower segments of the fossil. "Then, as the cart pulled away across the beach, there was a sudden CRACK-and the tower collapsed like a pack of cards!" All ends well as the children charge the townsfolk a penny a piece to see their great treasure, and Mary negotiates a selling price with the Lord of the Manor. Brighton's concluding note summarizes Anning's adult discoveries and her role in the history of science. Picture panels in a variety of groupings carry small blocks of narrative over watercolor scenes in muted tones, while dialogue balloons add bits of detail. The graphic-story format is well suited to the dramatic structure of events. Differing in details, neither Anholt nor Brighton acknowledge sources. The story is appealing in either case, and this cartoon adventure of a real-life heroine will be a fine choice for most collections.

Margaret Bush, Simmons College, Boston

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From Library Journal

Grade 2-4-With a comic-book layout, staccato prose, and sun-drenched illustrations, this real-life adventure of a curious English girl is an exciting introduction to the 19th-century paleontologist. (May)

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From Kirkus Reviews

This charming volume uses comic-strip frames to depict the events leading to Mary Anning's 1810 discovery in Dorset, England, of the skeleton of an ichthyosaurus. After their father died, Mary and Joe Anning would go out in all weather to collect curiosities to sell in their mother's shop. One day, a huge storm came and "all the curiosities were swept away." So they set out again, and this time they found something huge imbedded in the rocks of a tall cliff. Mary had a tower built, chipped away at the structure, lowered it down by ropes, piece by piece, and hauled it home. Long lines formed to see the discovery, and "Mary and Joe charged each person a penny to see the curiosity. Now they could afford their first hot meal for months." Henry Henley, lord of the manor, told Mary that she had found the fossilized remains of a creature who lived in the sea millions of years ago. He bought it from her and had it transported to London. Brighton gives the facts surrounding Mary's fame a straightforward treatment, while making the details of her life accessible in frame after frame of atmospheric illustration. (Picture book. 5-8) -- *Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Herndon:

The book *The Fossil Girl* give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem with your subject. If you can make reading through a book *The Fossil Girl* being your habit, you can get far more advantages, like add your own personal capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. You can know everything if you like wide open and read a reserve *The Fossil Girl*. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other individuals. So , how do you think about this reserve?

Joann Huertas:

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Tony Partee:

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Cliff Boyd:

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