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Carson Crosses Canada

[Image of the book cover]

Linda Bailey
Kass Reich

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Synopsis

From the author of If You Happen to Have a Dinosaur comes a funny and sweet cross-country roadtrip adventure with a sassy septuagenarian and her quirky canine. Feisty Annie Magruder and her dog, Carson, live in British Columbia, Canada, and they’re setting out to visit her sister, Elsie, in Newfoundland. In their little rattlebang car, packed with Carson’s favorite toy, Squeaky Chicken, and plenty of baloney sandwiches, Annie and Carson hit the road! They travel province by province, taking in each unique landscape and experiencing something special to that particular part of this vast, grand country. For example, they marvel at the beauty of the big, open sky -- and grasshoppers! -- in Saskatchewan and discover the gorgeous red earth and delicious lobster rolls in PEI, before finally being greeted by Elsie -- and a surprise for Carson!

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages
Publisher: Tundra Books (May 30, 2017)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1101918837
Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 0.4 x 10.3 inches
Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #255,776 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Canada #214 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Travel #1278 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs
Age Range: 4 - 8 years
Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

"Reich has done full justice to many iconic Canadian places and traditions, with vivid pictures that paint just the right amount of detail. . . . What a wonderful way to introduce Canada to children."
--CM Magazine
"Reich's gouache paintings, colourful and evocative, manage to capture the diversity and vastness of this land, stretching from the B.C. coast all the way to Cape Breton Island."
--Montreal Gazette
PRAISE FOR If You Happen to Have a Dinosaur: "There aren't many books that have the courage to be this silly....Simply wonderful." --The Globe and Mail
Selected as one of Today's Parent's Top 15 Picture books of 2014
Nominated for the
Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award, 2016 PRAISE FOR When Santa Was a Baby: "A fond, reassuring look at the eccentric childhood of a much-beloved holiday figure."
--Starred Review, School Library Journal

"Bailey and Godbout give Santa Claus a backstory in this sweetly funny account, warmly illustrated with soft, nostalgic pencil and pastel artwork....[A] clever take on the Santa myth that develops him as a character with his own thoughts and motivations."
--Starred Review, Publishers Weekly

PRAISE FOR Seven Dead Pirates: "Ahoy, ye maties: don't miss this treasure of a middle grade yarn."
--Starred Review, School Library Journal

"Bailey endows Lewis with several scene-stealing allies (notably a fierce kindergartener) and leaves him confidently steering a course toward calm waters. Piratical fun well-stocked with colorful cast members living and arrghh."
--Starred Review, Kirkus Reviews

Award-winning author LINDA BAILEY has written more than twenty books for children in a number of different genres, including the best-selling If You Happen to Have a Dinosaur, When Santa Was a Baby, Seven Dead Pirates and the Stanley-the-dog series. Known for her wonderful sense of humor, Linda has garnered a long list of honors in both Canada and the United States, such as the Blue Spruce Award, the Atlantic Provinces Hackmatack Award, the Arthur Ellis Award for Excellence in Canadian Crime Writing, the California Young Reader Medal and the Georgia Storybook Award. The author lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

KASS REICH was born in Montreal, Canada. She works as an artist and educator and has spent a majority of the last decade traveling and living abroad. Kass graduated with a degree in Art Education from Concordia University and then picked up and moved to Beijing where she worked as an early childhood educator for nearly three years. Working with the little ones inspired her to start making picture books for very young learners. After Beijing she lived in Hong Kong, London, England, and Melbourne, Australia. She now finds herself back in Canada, but this time in Toronto.

Kass Reich lives in Toronto, Ontario.

As a citizen of the United States I find it interesting to read books - especially illustrated books - about other countries. In the children's picture book Carson Crosses Canada we have a little doggie and a little old lady packing their suitcases (dog's and suitcases? Well, this is a children's imaginative book.) and get into their little yellow car and hit the road. They are crossing Canada to see her sister. The illustrations done in watercolors capture the essence of Canada's mountains, beautiful trees, and varied landscapes. Like the United States, Canada is a big, beautiful, and varied land of beauty. I think perhaps it would have been better had Carson, the doggie, not left his "little
souvenir" on a grassy spot although we all know that is the nature of doggies. Their mapped route shown on the end pages also is a simple map of the grand land of Canada showing the provinces and places they stopped. A cute book and nice introduction to Canada for little ones. I received a complimentary copy from Librarything.com and the publisher and was not obligated to provide a review. Opinions are my own and freely given.

I think the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa is one of the finest national history museums in the world. One can follow a single trail through the entire history of the country; it’s sort of an historical version of a cross-country trip, just it’s a cross-time trip. I thought of that as I read this book. Here, we get an impressionistic view of Canada as we travel from Tofino in the west all the way to Newfoundland. Coast, Rockies, Saskatchewan, Montreal, PEI - we get a little taste of everywhere. This is a kid’s book, not a history or, really, a travelogue. It’s not even explicit that we are following any particular route. We just start on one side, travel a long way, and end up on the other side. I guess parents could add whatever geography and history they might want to, as they read. But even just as a picture book, this is a treat. Carson and his mistress are cheerful and adventurous, and they make sure to have a good time as they travel and camp their way across the country. The vibe is upbeat and energetic. Carson is a peppy sort of dog and adds a good deal of personality to the trip. The illustrations are lively watercolors, intended to capture the spirit of the trip rather than the actual realistic landscape. The pair travels light and their tale is comfy and fun. It may not be Rand-McNally, but it gets across the size and variety of the country. It’s also just a good lady-and-dog story. So, I’m in and I could see a little reader or read-to getting a kick out Carson and his travel adventure. (And I like Squeaky Chicken.)

Please note that I received a free advance will-self-destruct-in-x-days Adobe Digital copy of this book without a review requirement, or any influence regarding review content should I choose to post a review. Apart from that I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.

‘Carson Crosses Canada’ by Linda Bailey with illustrations by Kass Reich is a pretty cute story about a long road trip across a beautiful country. Annie lives on the West Coast of Canada in British Columbia with her dog Carson. One day, she gets a letter from her sister Elsie, and Annie decides to take a road trip to visit her sister. Carson doesn’t have a suitcase, but he’s happy when Annie remembers to pack his toy, Squeaky Chicken. Annie promises Carson that he will have a surprise, but as they travel through big trees and hoodoos and plains, Carson can’t figure out what it could be. Annie is an intrepid traveler and Carson is the perfect travel companion. The art is beautiful in
this picture book. Canada is a big, beautiful country and that shows as Annie and Carson make their journey. This is a really cute story and would be a nice read along for preschoolers. I received a review copy of this ebook from Tundra Books, Penguin Random House Canada, and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for allowing me to review this ebook.

I received this book as part of the LibraryThing Early Reviewer program. It is a cute picture book about a dog named Carson who, with his friend Squeaky Chicken and Annie travel across Canada to visit Annie’s sister. The illustrations are wide-brush gouache paintings with vivid colors. I especially like that it has a map of Canada that shows their route, and that it showcases the beauty and variability of Canada.

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