



The Lion And The Unicorn

By Shirley Hughes



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A handsome, thoughtful book by a stellar author and illustrator.

When Lenny Levi's father goes off to fight in the Second World War, his son has to learn to be brave: brave when bombs are dropped on his street in London, brave when he's evacuated to a big house in the country, and brave when spiteful children tease him and call him names. This beautiful book will strike a chord with anyone who has ever felt homesick and alone. Full of detail and character, it embraces the past and the present with unique poignancy and power.

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The Lion And The Unicorn By Shirley Hughes Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1496786 in Books
- Published on: 1999-03-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.34" h x .45" w x 11.24" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 64 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

It's hard to be brave. Lenny has been trying ever since his father went off to fight in World War II, leaving him with a medallion depicting a fighting unicorn and lion. When bombs start to drop all around his house in London, his mother puts him on a train to the country for safety. There, mean children make fun of him and, well, being brave seems almost impossible. Thankfully, Lenny discovers a safe haven, a walled garden with a lonely looking stone unicorn, and he retreats there often. When he meets a quiet one-legged young man in the garden one day, Lenny slowly begins to learn the deeper meaning of courage. Once again, Shirley Hughes displays an unwavering sense of character, and beautifully colored, soft illustrations place the narrative in its physical and emotional context. Her sensitivity to the nuances of feelings in young people makes her stories profoundly appealing and satisfying. In this story of fear and loneliness, she brings the experiences of a time gone by into the present with clarity, wisdom, and elegance. (Ages 8 to 12) --*Emilie Coulter*

From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 4--An offering that is remarkable on many counts. It is, first and foremost, a moving story of a Jewish boy who comes to understand the nuances of bravery when he leaves his mother and their London home and goes to the countryside during the Blitz. Much of the impact comes from the author's effective use of foreshadowing, personification, and symbol in relation to the lion and the unicorn. The animals are introduced on a medal given to the boy by his father before he went off to war, with the admonition to be brave. The ferocious lion is linked to tangible sources of fear. Lenny discovers a statue of a unicorn in a walled garden where he has been sent to live. It is here that he also meets a young war hero with an amputated leg and discovers another side of strength--and of bravery. Hughes masterfully blends the real and the mythical in an enormously satisfying climax. Paintings of different sizes face text framed with black pen-and-ink lines and sketches. The gray, green, and blue background palette unifies the war and garden scenes, but the former is punctuated with the orange of flames, the latter with magenta flowers and warm, yellow sunlight. Place this in the ranks of other titles in which the garden and the friendships that develop there are a source of solace and inner strength.

Wendy Lukehart, Dauphin County Library, Harrisburg, PA

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 4⁺-6, younger for reading aloud. The English author-illustrator of the wonderful Alfie books for young preschoolers here tells a picture-book story for older readers about World War II at home. It is set at the terrifying time of the London blitz: the first pages show the city alight with the flames of firebombs and with searchlights raking the night sky. Just as scary for many children was the experience of being evacuated to live with strangers in the country. While his dad is away in the war, Lenny Levi tries to be as brave as a lion, but he cannot bear leaving mom when he is sent to live in a great country house. The scenes at the crowded station, with Lenny leaning out the train window and shouting to his mom on the platform, express the wrenching anguish of their parting. Then the pictures show him homesick and miserable in the big strange house, the only boy among the other evacuees, and the only Jew. He is tormented in the school yard, too, especially when the other kids find out that he has started wetting his bed. He finds refuge in a "secret" , walled garden on the estate, where he meets the family hero, who lost his leg in the war. The soldier says that he was frightened all the time in the fighting and that he also used to wet his bed. The metaphor of the title is contrived and overexplained: a lion and a unicorn on a medal from Lenny's father; a unicorn statue in the garden. Without its being spelled out, children will understand the different kinds of courage. Hughes'

amazing narrative watercolors show Lenny's loneliness and how his quiet mentor helps him be brave. At the end, his mom comes for him, and the scene of their embrace closes the circle of that anguished parting on the station platform. In the same way, those first nightmare scenes of the bombed city lit by fire and searchlight are overcome in the final double-page spread of the glorious garden, the soldier and unicorn illuminated in the rays of the sun. *Hazel Rochman*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Doris Seavey:

Now a day those who Living in the era wherever everything reachable by connect to the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not require people to be aware of each data they get. How many people to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Reading a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information especially this The Lion And The Unicorn book as this book offers you rich facts and knowledge. Of course the information in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you probably know this.

Kimberly Kiser:

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Rhonda Kirby:

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Sandra Vincent:

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