

The Nature
of Community

A BOOK MAGAZINE

U.S. & International
Poetry, Fiction & Memoir

The

BLOOMSBURY REVIEW

Vol 29/Issue 4 • Aug/Sept/Oct 2009

\$3.50 US

Holding the
Human Line
A Conversation With
Ellen Bass
by Robert Sward

Ivy ponders the delights of the missing season, fitting through lines of famous poets, from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow—"When winter winds are piercing chill"—to Christopher Morley—"April prepares her green traffic light./And the world thinks Go." As these lines appear, the illustrations take Ivy through a changing palette of scenes, from the dreary tones of winter to the green and gold of plants and sunlight. A young reader is unlikely to recognize the excerpts until the bibliography, where

*The world's a smudge,
Of brown and gray,
The buds won't budge,
The sun stays away.*

Young Ivy Van Allsberg waits for spring, but sees no sign of it while starting out her window. No birds, no flowers, no warm showers. Instead,

Ivy in Bloom
The Poetry of Spring
From Great Poets and Writers of the Past
VANITA OELSCHLAGER
Illustrated by KRISTIN BLACKWOOD
Vanabooks, \$17.95 cloth,
ISBN 978-0-9800162-7-7;
3875 Embassy Pkwy, Ste 250,
Akron, OH 44333

identity of the tooth fairy. In chapter two, titled "April Fool," Zelda tries in vain to outfox her ever-crafty little sister. "Madame Butterfly," the final story of the volume, stars opera singer Zelda and her "servants" (Eugene and Ivy) in a hilarious performance of *Cleopatra*. Lively illustrations in bright gouache range from full-page artwork to smaller floating figures interspersed throughout the text. The combination of winsome characters, authentic dialogue, animated illustrations and quick, exciting action will have readers clamoring for more volumes featuring this entertaining pair.

■—Melanie Gregg

of evolution is presented with a light touch. This is a marvelous product with pleasant intentions and stimulating visual appeal.

■—B. Noolerun

The Raccoon and the Bee Tree

Prairie Tale Series #4

A Prairie Tale

CHARLES A. EASTMAN &

ELAINE GOODALE EASTMAN

Illustrated by SUSAN TURNBULL

South Dakota State Historical Society,

\$14.95 cloth, ISBN 978-0-9798940-8-4

The latest entry in a series about animals native to Dakota prairies and woods, this is a variation on a traditional Native American tale. Here, Raccoon awakens at dusk and ventures out from his home in a dead stump, on the hunt for food. Along the way, he encounters Swan, Crane, Loon, the Skunk family, and other animal neighbors, who are nervous about his presence. He runs into trouble when he dines on the honey in a bee's nest.

Stung by the honey's protectors and covered in honey, he falls from a tree and ends up covered with a layer of dead leaves glued to his body. With his unnatural appearance, he alarms other animals, including Fox and Bear, before resolving his dilemma in the story's conclusion. It's a simple story delivering a traditional moral, in a charming format that will please young readers.

■—Heidi Yawkin

In the Trees, Honey Bees

ILLUSTRATED BY CRIS ARBO

LORI MORTENSEN

Dawn Publications, \$16.95 cloth,

ISBN 978-1-58469-114-3; \$8.95 paper,

ISBN 978-1-58469-115-0

Parallel narratives carry the reader through this book, one a crisp, rhythmic line—"Morning light. Warm

of an important African American sculptor who played a major role in the Harlem Renaissance. From a childhood in rural Florida at the turn of the 20th century, she overcame cultural obstacles to study art at the noted Cooper Union in New York City. The story ends with the beginning of her career, focusing instead on the details of her early family life. Although she is a unique historical figure, Augusta's story also encompasses broader themes, poverty and parental opposition to her artistic leanings among them. In this sense, young readers in the modern era may find elements that are recognizable, part of an enduring fabric of life.

■—B. Trey

Crow Call

LOIS LOWRY

Illustrated by BAGRAM IBATOULINE

Scholastic, \$16.99 cloth,

ISBN 978-0-545-03035-9

Memories of childhood inspire Lowry, a Newbery medalist twice over, in this warm tale of a father and daughter and a trip to the woods to hunt the birds that are eating their

Antarctic and Arctic—than any other flying animal, one example of advantage of being small. Whales! Even people do bad things without meaning to." But Dad, freshly home from the war, has a difficult time convincing his daughter that it is necessary to shoot the crows, which his daughter is newly responsible for calling into range with his crow call, a wooden device designed to imitate their vocal sounds. Although the outcome will not offend the morals of the animal rights movement, it is not a political statement against hunting, but a deftly told story of bonding and family. The book is nostalgic, warm, and ultimately comforting, whether or not you like crows.

■—Ulan Fens

other uses. "You can paint your ton purple and green," make new friezes rich with smells: crispy ta-buttery tortillas, and roses bloom in warm environment, ethnicity is apparent, and the neighborhood is inviting haven. The palata wagon briced treasures, strong symbols of childhood satisfaction. This small package warmly conceived and successfully presented as a solid, encompassing vision of delight.

■—Lanny Tritz

Just the Right Size

Why Big Animals Are Big and

Little Animals Are Little

NICOLA DAVIES

Illustrated by NEAL LAYTON

Candlewick, \$14.99 cloth,

ISBN 978-0-7636-3924-2

Arctic terns are world champion fliers. They fly farther—20,000 miles on a round-trip between Antarctica and Arctic—than any other flying animal, one example of advantage of being small. Whales! Even people do bad things without meaning to." But Dad, freshly home from the war, has a difficult time convincing his daughter that it is necessary to shoot the crows, which his daughter is newly responsible for calling into range with his crow call, a wooden device designed to imitate their vocal sounds. Although the outcome will not offend the morals of the animal rights movement, it is not a political statement against hunting, but a deftly told story of bonding and family. The book is nostalgic, warm, and ultimately comforting, whether or not you like crows.

■—Bruce Brie

dangerous it is to be small. will learn why humans can't fly and works in nature. Along the way, rules and ratios that govern how role here as working examples of illustrations. Teeny hummingbirds, nocteros beetles, and elephants plentertaining; key facts related to an lovers will find that information can this informative book, young an store much more fat than the term periods without eating because they size, the ability to go for much longer from the war, has a difficult time con-