



Ocean Meets Sky

Terry Fan , Eric Fan

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Finn lives by the sea and the sea lives by him. Every time he looks out his window it's a constant reminder of the stories his grandfather told him about the place where the ocean meets the sky. Where whales and jellyfish soar and birds and castles float.

Finn's grandfather is gone now but Finn knows the perfect way to honor him. He'll build his own ship and sail out to find this magical place himself!

And when he arrives, maybe, just maybe, he'll find something he didn't know he was looking for.

Ocean Meets Sky Details

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Author : Terry Fan , Eric Fan

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From Reader Review Ocean Meets Sky for online ebook

Jenna says

I liked this book a lot. The whimsical steampunk-ish illustrations are brimful of charming details that could keep any adult or child reader engrossed for hours -- a truly inspired mix of whale, fish, bird, and ship imagery. The story is an ambitious blend of light and heavy, realistic and dreamy: it concerns a small boy, Finn, whose grandfather has recently passed away in his old age. Finn reminisces on his loving relationship with his grandfather, a raconteur whose fantastical stories nourished the young boy's imagination. In what is ultimately revealed to be a dream, Finn builds a boat and undertakes a solo nautical journey, assisted by a talking fish guide, in the hopes of reuniting with his grandfather in the paradise where "ocean meets sky"; along the way, he encounters some visually lovely mythic islands populated by book-reading birds and giant shells. In the end, his mother affectionately wakes him up for dinner; though he is never able to reunite with his grandfather in the way he most desires, he is sustained in his bereavement by the power of imagination and the loving presence of his family.

By the way, it is worth mentioning that Finn, his mother, and his grandfather all have Asian facial features and the dinner Finn wakes up to is a traditional dumpling dish. As someone who grew up in a time when Asians were very rarely represented in English-language picture books (other than as oddities), and even more rarely represented in English-language picture books created by authors of Asian heritage, I absolutely loved this unobtrusive integration of Asian characters and Asian cultural elements into the book.

(Part of my informal "Goodreads Reviews of Quality Whale-Themed Picture Books" series.)

K.J. Mecklenfeld says

Minunat?.

Am scris pentru ea un mic articol pe blogul meu.

Musai de avut în bibliotec? :-).

Krissy says

Gorgeous illustrations!

Kimberly says

Here's how special this book is: my toddler, who has never experienced the death of a loved one and therefore has no idea about the process of grief and healing, understands what is going on in this book. While it is never explicitly stated that Finn's grandfather has passed, and never says that Finn misses him, my son understood. At one point during our second or third reading he said, "I miss my grandpa too!" Thankfully, his grandpas and his great-grandpa are all still with us, but I was amazed that the Fan brothers managed to convey this so clearly through the sparse text and the illustrations...well enough that a two-year-old understood that Finn was experiencing loss. That's really something.

The illustrations in this book are breathtaking. I wish I could have several of them as prints. My son is absolutely enchanted by them, particularly the ones featuring whales. He has requested this book almost every night for the past week, sometimes twice per night. He studies the pictures and asks questions--it is the coolest thing. Major kudos to the Fan brothers for making a difficult topic so beautiful and accessible.

Rachel says

4.5 Stars. Beautiful illustrations & cute story.

Vi says

Beautifully illustrated story with a simple yet moving storyline.

Hannah Greendale says

A visual treat that celebrates lost loved ones through the wonders of imagination.

La Coccinelle says

I was really intrigued by the cover of this one. The illustrations looked gorgeous, and some of them are. I wasn't absolutely in love with the story, though, and the writing had some problems.

Finn builds a boat on what would have been his grandfather's ninetieth birthday. It whisks him away on a magical adventure, eventually leading him to the place his grandfather talked about: where the ocean meets the sky. The story itself is fine; as a dream/fantasy, it works. The reader can clearly see how much Finn and his grandfather loved each other, even if the grandfather isn't even present in most of the book. Unlike *Ida and the Whale*, another picture book about a magical journey that I just read, the goal is more clearly spelled out. Finn really wants to find the place his grandfather talked about. I did like how that journey had a well-defined end. I'm just not sure if the story held my interest as an adult reader.

The beginning of the book has illustrations that are a bit more muted. I guess that's supposed to show the mundane ordinary world... but I found them kind of dull and boring. Once Finn gets into the fantasy, the pictures are much more engaging. I particularly liked the island of giant shells and the sea of jellyfish. The great golden fish, though, I found a bit terrifying; he acts as Finn's guide, so he's kind of a necessary part of the story, but I'm not sure how he'd go over with little kids.

The writing is fairly sparse, which makes me a bit annoyed that it couldn't have been polished to perfection. As it is, there are a number of sentence fragments. I don't like seeing stuff like that in children's books, since many kids absorb a lot of grammar lessons simply by reading.

I probably shouldn't have judged a book by its cover, but I did, and that led to a bit of disappointment. There are certainly some beautiful illustrations within the book, but they're not all as magical as what's depicted on the outside.

Skip says

Goodreads nomination for Best Children's book in 2018.

Beautifully illustrated and a sweet, whimsical story about a boy remembering his grandfather.

David Schaafsma says

Each year my family reads all the Goodreads-award-nominated picture books. This is book #16 (of 20) of 2018, one of the books where I look like an old curmudgeon compared to my family, who largely loved this book which is about kid wanting to see his Grandpa again and imagining his way to him.

Lyra (11): 4.5 stars. This was a very sweet book with beautiful pictures.

Hank (12): 4.5 stars. I liked when he saw his Grandpa again. Good drawing.

Harry (13): 4.5 stars. I loved the pictures and it was touching.

Tara: 5 stars. I thought this was very touching. Plus, great fantasy and steampunk art.

Dave: 3 stars. This is a book ostensibly about grief, and how to honor the departed. Sentimental story, nice enough, but there's little there about Grandpa or the boy's relationship to him, really. I think the book is mainly about the opportunity to create great art. The place where ocean meets the sky provides the imaginative space to find Grandpa.

Shelle Perry says

Epic is the first adjective that comes to mind with this picture book by The Fan Brothers. Finn lives by the sea. On what would have been his grandfather's ninetieth birthday, he finds himself missing his grandfather's stories and wisdom. To honor his grandfather he builds a small boat and, exhausted, falls asleep. Upon waking he finds himself sailing to that mysterious place his grandfather told him about where the ocean meets the sky.

The artwork so easily conveys the magic of this place with cloud pictures, giant sea creatures, The Library islands with its bookish birds along with air and sea vessels of every kind converging there. Children will read this book time and again just pull some new beautiful detail out of it.

Kathryn says

Everything about this book is soothing and quiet with a lovely message. I loved it.

Abigail says

The fantastically talented Fan Brothers, Terry and Eric, who made their debut with The Night Gardener, return in Ocean Meets Sky, the second picture-book that they have written and illustrated together. Here they follow the story of Finn, a young boy who is missing his (presumably deceased) grandfather. On the day his grandfather would have been ninety, Finn builds himself a ship and sets sail to find that place, mentioned many times by his elderly relative, where the ocean meets the sky. Along the way he encounters many wonders, taking a serene voyage into a fantastic dreamscape...

Although I have enjoyed everything this talented pair have produced, from the aforementioned The Night Gardener, which they both wrote and illustrated, to The Antlered Ship, which they illustrated for author Dashka Slater, I think Ocean Meets Sky is the Fan Brothers' best work yet! The artwork here is breathtakingly beautiful, and there are multiple two-page spreads I would happily hang on my wall, if they were available as prints or posters. The scene with the moon jellies stands out to me, as does the one in which Finn's ship hangs in mid-air (or is it mid-ocean?), together with two magnificent whales, numerous other sea (and air) creatures, and various other conveyances, from sailing ships to air balloons. It truly is a marvelously inventive, gorgeously realized dream-scene! The story itself is emotionally resonant, without ever feeling overdone or manipulative, and touches on issues of death, grief and memory, as well as the power of dreams. Highly recommended, to all fellow Fan Brothers fans, to anyone who appreciates beautiful picture-books, and to anyone looking for children's stories about loss, grief, and the places our dreams can take us.

Elisabeth says

Magical and stunningly beautiful, this picture book will speak to kids *and* their parents.

Brittany says

5 Sailing Stars!!!

Picked up this *Beautiful* Gem at my local library last week for my daughter and just realized its up for a Goodreads Choice Award! Its a new picture book about a young boy who builds a boat, and sets sail to find a place his grandfather told him about...the spot where the ocean meets the sky. Full of *Gorgeous* illustrations, this one is sure to captivate young readers, as they too, read and sail along, on this Magical Journey.
