



Shortcut

By Donald Crews

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The train tracks ran right by Bigmama's house in Cottondale, and the children were warned to stay off the tracks. But one night they were late, and the tracks were a shortcut, so they started off. And when there was no turning back, they heard the train coming.

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Shortcut By Donald Crews Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #30121 in Books
- Brand: Greenwillow Books
- Published on: 1996-09-20
- Released on: 1996-09-20
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .0" w x 9.88" l, .35 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 32 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A group of children get the thrill of a lifetime when they decide to cut short their walk home in Crews's new picture book. Though they know the freight train might round the bend momentarily, the kids opt for playing along the tracks instead of walking on their familiar route. Charged with excitement, the escapade turns to fullblown alarm when the train whistle sounds, sending the youngsters scrambling to safety at the last minute. Crews's economical text deftly explores a roller coaster ride of emotion in just a few paragraphs, highlighted with effective onomatopoeia-Whoo wh(,o; klackity, klackity, klack. The underlying childlike sensibilities here-taking a risk to the limit, for example-authenticate the author's voice throughout. The story, an extension of the characters first introduced in Crews's nostalgic Bigmama's, is a perfect foil for the artist's masterful renderings of trains. A predominantly warm, earthy palette sets a serene and playful mood at the outset, followed by several dark, wordless spreads that show freight cars rushing past, ready to speed right off the page. Scenes portraying the frightened children are equally effective in this out of the ordinary drama set forth with uncommon artistry. Ages 4-up.

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Review

"An out of the ordinary drama set forth with uncommon artistry."--"Publishers Weekly (starred review)"Beautifully crafted from cover to cover."--"Booklist (starred review)"

About the Author

Donald Crews is the renowned creator of many celebrated children's books, including the Caldecott Honor Books *Freight Train* and *Truck*. He and his wife, Ann Jonas, live in New York's Hudson River Valley.

Donald Crews es el renombrado autor de dos libros merecedores del premio Caldecott, *Tren de carga* (*Freight Train*) y *School Bus*. Vive con su esposa, Ann Jonas, cerca del Río Hudson, en Nueva York.

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From reader reviews:

Jacquelyn Lopez:

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