



The Hundred Dresses

By Eleanor Estes

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Eleanor Estes's *The Hundred Dresses* won a Newbery Honor in 1945 and has never been out of print since. At the heart of the story is Wanda Petronski, a Polish girl in a Connecticut school who is ridiculed by her classmates for wearing the same faded blue dress every day. Wanda claims she has one hundred dresses at home, but everyone knows she doesn't and bullies her mercilessly. The class feels terrible when Wanda is pulled out of the school, but by that time it's too late for apologies. Maddie, one of Wanda's classmates, ultimately decides that she is "never going to stand by and say nothing again." This powerful, timeless story has been reissued with a new letter from the author's daughter Helena Estes, and with the Caldecott artist Louis Slobodkin's original artwork in beautifully restored color.

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The Hundred Dresses By Eleanor Estes Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Wanda Petronski lives way up in shabby Boggins Heights, and she doesn't have any friends. Every day she wears a faded blue dress, which wouldn't be too much of a problem if she didn't tell her schoolmates that she had a hundred dresses at home--all silk, all colors, and velvet, too. This lie--albeit understandable in light of her dress-obsessed circle--precipitates peals of laughter from her peers, and she never hears the end of it. One day, after Wanda has been absent from school for a few days, the teacher receives a note from Wanda's father, a Polish immigrant: "Dear teacher: My Wanda will not come to your school any more. Jake also. Now we move away to big city. No more holler Polack. No more ask why funny name. Plenty of funny names in the big city. Yours truly, Jan Petronski."

Maddie, a girl who had stood by while Wanda was taunted about her dresses, feels sick inside: "True, she had not enjoyed listening to Peggy ask Wanda how many dresses she had in her closet, but she had said nothing.... She was a coward.... She had helped to make someone so unhappy that she had had to move away from town." Repentant, Maddie and her friend Peggy head up to Boggins Heights to see if the Petronskis are still there. When they discover the house is empty, Maddie despairs: "Nothing would ever seem good to her again, because just when she was about to enjoy something--like going for a hike with Peggy to look for bayberries or sliding down Barley Hill--she'd bump right smack into the thought that she had made Wanda Petronski move away." Ouch. This gentle Newbery Honor Book convincingly captures the deeply felt moral dilemmas of childhood, equally poignant for the teased or the tormentor. Louis Slobodkin, illustrator of the 1944 Caldecott Medalist *Many Moons*, brings his wispy, evocative, color-washed sketches to Eleanor Estes's time-proven classic about kindness, compassion, and standing up for what's right. (Ages 6 and older) --*Karin Snelson*

Review

"Sensitive, intuitive, restrained . . . will take its place with the books that endure."--Saturday Review

"Written with rare intuition and pictured with warm sympathy and charm."--The Horn Book

"No young person . . . will ever forget it."--Book Week

About the Author

Eleanor Estes (1906-1988) grew up in West Haven, Connecticut, which she renamed Cranbury for her classic stories about the Moffat and Pye families. A children's librarian for many years, she launched her writing career with the publication of *The Moffats* in 1941. Two of her outstanding books about the Moffats—*Rufus M.* and *The Middle Moffat*—were awarded Newbery Honors, as was her short novel *The Hundred Dresses*. She won the Newbery Medal for *Ginger Pye*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mark Logan:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The knowledge you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want attract knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want really feel happy read one having theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. The actual The Hundred Dresses is kind of e-book which is giving the reader erratic experience.

Mary Blackwell:

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the spare time or they will get lot of stress from both way of life and work. So , when we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not really a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer can unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, the book you have read is actually The Hundred Dresses.

Donald Lombard:

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Anthony Lainez:

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