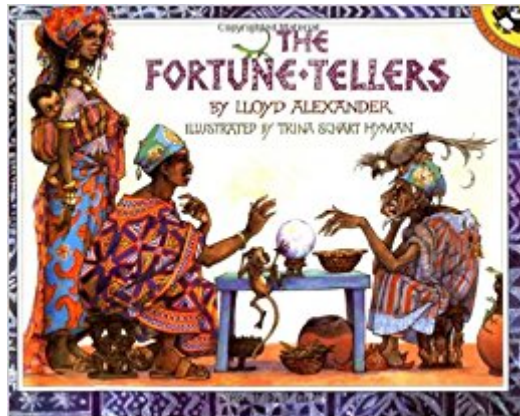




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The Fortune-Tellers (Picture Puffin Books)



Synopsis

This original folktale set in Cameroon is full of adventure and sly humor. Lloyd Alexander's story of a young man visiting -- and then becoming -- the village fortune-teller is brought to vibrant life with some of Caldecott Medalist Trina Schart Hyman's most memorable artwork. Both children and adults will relish *The Fortune-tellers*. "A funny, playful story that evokes the irony of the human condition." -- Booklist, starred review "Alexander narrates his original tale with folkloric verve and his own mellow brand of irony; Hyman realizes the African setting in...splendid illustrations. A winning tale, superlatively presented." -- Kirkus Reviews, pointerreview Lloyd Alexander's many achievements include a Newbery Medal, a Newbery Honor Medal, and the National Book Award. Trina Schart Hyman won the Caldecott Medal for *Saint George and the Dragon* and a Caldecott Honor Medal for *Little Red Riding Hood*, among numerous other awards.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0750 (What's this?)

Series: Picture Puffin Books

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (October 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140562338

ISBN-13: 978-0140562330

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.2 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 28 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #252,005 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > African](#) #128 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa](#) #4970 in [Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

The hands of fate deftly propel this original folktale. A seedy fortune-teller profits from gullible and sometimes desperate villagers who seek predictions for a rosier future. One unhappy carpenter takes to heart the seer's hardly helpful advice--"Rich you will surely be, on one condition: that you

earn large sums of money"--and looks forward to a prosperous life. Most surprising to the craftsman, he ends up in the right place at the right time and the prediction comes true. Alexander's chipper text has a jaunty and infectious "just so" tone. Amazing coincidences fuse the plot elements, but the story's logic remains intact, successfully suspending the reader's disbelief. Hyman's acrylic, ink and crayon illustrations capture the landscape and people of West Africa in vivid detail. Indigenous plants and animals--including comically placed lizards--dot each scene, and the villagers' lushly textured apparel is spectacular. Especially opulent are spreads featuring the fortune-teller's cluttered quarters and the market stalls with their baskets and pottery. Ages 5-8. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 1-4-- A young carpenter, tired of hammering and sawing, seeks out a fortune-teller to see what his future holds. The cagey old prophet promises him a rosy future--well, maybe. `` `Rich you will surely be,' " says the fortune-teller, if `` `you earn large sums of money.' " Moreover, `` `You shall wed your true love . . . if you find her and she agrees. And you shall be happy as any in the world if you can avoid being miserable.' " Pleased with these promising, if ambiguous, predictions, the carpenter leaves, only to get halfway home and decide he has more questions to ask. But the fortune-teller has mysteriously vanished, leaving the carpenter in the quirky hand of fate where, in typical Alexander fashion, his life takes a surprising and humorous turn. The story's warm and witty tone is reinforced by Hyman's masterful illustrations. Expressive figures are dynamically placed against a West African landscape, in colors so rich and clear that they invite readers to touch the fabrics and breathe the air. Visual details--carved wooden stools, traditional cloth patterns, signs in French--add an authenticity to the story (which is actually set in Cameroon), while touches of humor in postures and expressions underscore Alexander's gentle wit. These illustrations are obviously a labor of love. Vibrant with life and good humor, this is a supremely satisfying creation. --Linda Boyles, Alachua County Library District, Gainesville, FLCopyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a great story, the illustrations are nice, colorful, lively. I tried it with the 5 year old granddaughter and it was a bit long for her, even though she's capable of actually reading it (way above her grade). But the story is one that can be understood differently by children of different ages, so maybe next year and beyond. It's quite clever, I think. Wise for the adults that get it too!

I recently sent Lloyd Alexander's "The Fortune-Tellers" picture book to my neice as a gift for her and

her recently born child. She promptly sent a note thanking me for "the pleasure of re-living one of the joys of my own childhood." The outstanding appeals of this story are: the gorgeous colors that accurately depict the setting and especially the bright clothes worn by the West Africans; the laughter-inviting story for the children; and the humorous language that will keep adults turning the pages. My neice and her child will read this one together over and over.

This is an Entertaining children's books with great pictures. My children enjoy this book very much. The book is written english.

A joy to read with young children and teenagers. Read it with your family as soon as you can. I will leave it at that.

I love this for the illustrations : Trina Schwart Hyman

This story was one of many reviewed during a reading comprehension class. I loved it so much that I put it on my wish list right away. Just recently I ordered it and enjoy sharing it with family, friends, and students.

Wonderful for storyhours! Memorable characters and action.

PB not as brilliantly colored as HC. DISAPPOINTED. REMEMBER THE DARK OF NIGHT, through dawn, the heat of the day, dusk and back to the sunset and brilliantly star studded night again.

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