

Reviews and Testimonials for Fireflies and Shooting Stars

“Pardon me while I take a few moments to wipe tears from my eyes. The kids and I just finished reading *Fireflies and Shooting Stars: The Tale of Enzo*, which is a beautiful story about self-love and accepting difference. Author Ed Raarup and Illustrator Lindsay D. Nery sure know how to get to a mama’s heart. And the best part – the kids, mom and dad, all learned lessons while we read this gorgeous story of Enzo. How could you not appreciate this?”

<http://www.lifewithlevi.com/2013/06/fireflies-shooting-st>
Becky Willis, Life with Levi



“Miss Grace LOVES this book! It took us about 2 weeks to get through the 10 chapters, as we had LOTS of discussions after each chapter, not to mention playing the enclosed CD! She loved being able to read along with the songs, as the lyrics are in the story. The CD has 12 songs sung by Lynne Wintersteller and other Broadway performers, and they are all lovely! *Shine Baby Shine* is Miss Grace's favorite, but *You Gotta Sparkle* is a close second! This is a wonderfully illustrated book that will keep your kids turning the pages eager to see what happens to Enzo, and provides you with a great start for conversations on being different, bullying and how parents keep their kids safe!”

<http://blesstheirheartsmom.blogspot.com/2013/06/fireflies-and-shooting-stars-by-ed.html>
Nicole Henke, Bless Their Hearts Mom

“I read Penelope a chapter of the book every night at bedtime and each night she would beg me to read more. She just had to find out if Enzo was going to get his light. Penelope loved this book so much that she even talked about it throughout the day: ‘Mommy, I wonder if Enzo is going to get his light tonight,’ or ‘Mommy, do you think Enzo will shine tonight?’ She would even sing bits of song that she remembered, and several times I caught myself singing too! This is a wonderful book for little ones, and the artwork is beautiful as well. Penelope ‘oohed and ahhed’ page after page. This book is sure to become a childhood favorite.”

<http://lifeissoogood.blogspot.com/2013/06/childrens-book-review-fireflies-and.html>
Monica Lavoie, Life is Sooo Good

“Wow, where do I start with this one!!! This beautiful hardcover children’s book contains 144 pages with some of the best illustrations I have ever seen in a child’s book! Seriously, this book is a work of art! For the past week or so, I have been reading this book to Gia and she absolutely loves it. We have read it cover to cover one time . . . and now we are half way through reading it a second time . . . all of the language and subject matter is easy enough for a small child to understand. I love that reading this book opened up a dialogue with Gia about kids being different from one another. This book lays it out nicely in a way that is easy for her to understand. Two days ago she took the book and music CD into her preschool for Show & Tell day and her preschool teacher sent home a nice note thanking me for sending it in. The kids at her preschool are loving it, and Gia will be taking it back in for Show & Tell next week. We love this book and highly recommend it to all of you. It’s a wonderful book to add to your child’s library or to purchase and give as a gift!”

<http://twoclassychics.com/2013/05/fireflies-and-shooting-stars-the-tale-of-enzo-book-review-and-giveaway/>
Shelly Hill, Two Classy Chics

“I won't hold back. I will tell you right now I loved this book. Yes, it's a book specifically aimed at people whose kids are different in some way, whether through different abilities or different emotional makeups – it is a book about hope and joy. The little firefly, Enzo, does end up on a very personal quest, sort of a ‘hero's journey’ like the late Joseph Campbell described. The pictures are adorable, expressive and colorful and complement the story perfectly. And interspersed throughout the book are the lyrics to actual songs! It reminded me of a musical where suddenly a character will burst into song to illustrate a particularly moving scene. If you care about kids and families who are struggling with disabilities or differences, you will probably love this book. It deals with denial and realism, hope and courage, inner strength and caring –and so many other real-life issues that come into play when you're the parent of a child who's different. I asked my son what he thought of the book. This is an exact quote: ‘Magical – just magical. It was a combination of fantasy and realism; it was like Warriors and a fairy tale combined.’ From beginning to end, the way the book is put together and presented, with the combination of the story, the wonderful background information, the CD and the lovely art – it's a quality book that would also make a nice gift.”

http://cf.telegram.com/massmoms/massmoms_blogs.cfm?record_id=1052425
Jen Niles, MassMoms.com

“Such an amazing story about Enzo, a firefly that could not find his light. It is adorable, heartwarming and quite inspiring!!! This book is one that will be appealing to many children, some going through tough stuff and those that are not. I love the CD that accompanied the book! What an amazing way to bring the story to life! I also loved that the book was one that was read over a period of time. It makes to last so much longer and creates such great dialogue between my kids and myself! I just loved this book and rate it 5 stars!”

<http://mrsmommybooknerd.blogspot.com/2013/05/childrens-book-showcase-and-reviews.html>
Emily Lewis, Mrs. Mommy Booknerd

“All kids, with or without disabilities, can gain a new understanding and empathy for others by listening to Enzo’s tale. My six and eight year olds really enjoyed the story, and even my twelve year old sidled over to have a listen once things got going. *Fireflies and Shooting Stars: The Tale of Enzo* is a well written book – Enzo is a character that kids will want to pull for, even when things get rough. The added benefit of a tale that teaches is always a plus, and the copious illustrations will keep even the squirmiest of kids glued to each page. The inclusion of a music CD that carries on the fun from the story makes this book a must for your family’s collection.”

<http://gamesfiends.com/book/fireflies-and-shooting-stars-the-tale-of-enzo-book-review/>

Amy Nelson, Games Fiends

“My kids and I have decided this is the perfect bedtime book. We are reading a chapter a night and listening to the corresponding song on the CD. They are loving it. The artwork in this book is GORGEOUS. Absolutely gorgeous.”

<http://digiscrapping.net/blog/2013/05/05/fireflies-and-shooting-stars/>

Heather Ayala, Not Everyone's Mama

“This is a unique book – a richly illustrated large-format chapter book with an accompanying music CD. Throughout the story, different characters sing to or with Enzo, and the songs are performed beautifully on the CD by the multi-talented author Ed, and others. The most moving song for me is the lovely *Star Song*, the song that reminds Enzo that ‘the light will bring you home.’”

<http://www.bethstilborn.com/turning-the-spotlight-on-fireflies-and-shooting-stars/#more-3591>

Beth Stilborn, By Word of Beth

“What hooked me on this story was its universal appeal and positive message. I immediately empathized with Enzo, a firefly born without a tail light, and cheered for him on his journey to become whole. Though the true power of the story came when Enzo realized he doesn't need a tail light, that his greatest gift shines from within. We are all ‘different’ in one way or another, and the theme of self-acceptance and embracing the differences in others are important lessons to learn – at any age. The luminous illustrations Lindsay D. Nery created for *Fireflies and Shooting Stars* (full-color throughout) bring Enzo and his family and friends to life, while drawing us into their magical world of fun and adventure. Their visual appeal adds depth to the story, and shine in their own right. It's rare that you find a strong story with musical accompaniment to match. Music plays an important role in (the story) *Fireflies and Shooting Stars*, and the accompanying CD is nothing short of amazing.”

<http://elizabethfais.wordpress.com/tag/fireflies-and-shooting-stars/>

Elizabeth Fais, Where the Awesome Begins

“The text is full of American-eze, which is fun, and the illustrations are wonderful, full of light and life and emotion. Enzo is lovable, and the CD of songs that accompanies the story will be enjoyed by children too. The whole effect is of a musical, and certainly music – i.e., the *Star Song* - is important to the story. Enzo is a winner!”

Healthy Books, England

“Little did I know when I was proofreading the text of this book that it would turn out to be such a visual delight with its marvelous illustrations by Lindsay Nery and large fonts or that it would come with a CD of 12 original songs by the author, sung by a professional musical theater cast. It is the uplifting story of Enzo, a little firefly born without a light in his tail. His tale of self-discovery, of learning to find that his own difference is not a disability will strike chords with young readers as they learn important lessons about self-esteem and tolerance. I can easily see this becoming a show for the stage, or even a movie. Meanwhile, go get it for your or your friends' or family members' kids or grandkids. You'll get hugs from them all.”

Mim Eisenberg, WordCraft

“The story of Enzo, a little firefly who can't find his light, is heartwarming and inspiring. In a world where children who are different in any way often find themselves bullied, this book is both comforting to those who are mistreated and instructive to those who are not. The illustrations are captivating, and the CD included is Broadway quality. Singing the songs with your children in the car will be uplifting for everyone. My children are grown, but that doesn't stop me from singing my heart out while driving down the road!”

Elizabeth Geitz, Good Shepherd Sustainable Learning Foundation
Author of *I Am That Child: Changing Hearts and Changing the World*

“Every now and then, a musical story comes along with not only beautiful music and words, but with a special message for everyone. This message is delivered not only in song, but also in artistic illustrations that are spectacular. This production is a winner from beginning to end and should be a part of everyone's library. Enzo is an inspiration for anyone who has ever had a moment of feeling different, alone and bullied in both subtle and deliberate ways. My daughter, a first grade teacher in Rome, was given a copy for Christmas to teach her children to be kind and tolerant of others, among several other life lessons. This is a special gift for anyone who has a heart, a soul and a desire to love others as well as themselves.”

Brenda Ruello, Good Shepherd Sustainable Learning Foundation

