



The House That Crack Built

By Clark Taylor

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With a beat reminiscent of hip hop or rap music, a well known nursery rhyme is brilliantly transformed into a powerful poem about the tragic problem of illegal drugs and its victims. From the harvesting of the coca plants to dealers and gangs to the innocent crack babies born everyday, cocaine's journey is starkly traced from beginning to end. The rhythmic text, which is realistic but not moralizing, will appeal to teenagers and adults. But it is also accessible for even very young children, making this a valuable resource for parents, teachers, librarians, caregivers, and everyone else who is looking for a way to broach this difficult subject. A list of organizations is provided for those seeking help for a loved one or a way out for themselves. A foreword by children's advocate Michael Pritchard teaches us that we are all victims of this debilitating drug but reminds us that we also have the ability to change our world.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A familiar nursery rhyme takes a decidedly dark turn in this sobering picture book. Written in a hip - hop rhythm and based on "The House That Jack Built," the new cumulative rhyme focuses attention on the drug trade and abuse of crack cocaine. No stone is left unturned as the text demonstrates the drug's ripple effect that begins with exploited South American coca farmers--"These are the Farmers who work in the heat"--and ends up invading urban neighborhoods also infested with gangs, violence, despair and hopelessness: "This is the Street of a town in pain"; "This is the Girl who's killing her brain." Dicks uses muted, somber colors and almost cubist figures and images to illustrate crack's lethal potential. The picture book format is well-suited to presentation of this subject matter to a wide audience--younger readers can readily digest the sparse text and ask questions about the art, while older children and adults may use the book as a jumping off point for more involved discussion. All of the publisher's proceeds from the book will go to drug education, prevention and rehabilitation programs that specifically help children. All ages.

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From School Library Journal

K Up-- A picture book that uses the patterns and rhymes of the traditional ``House That Jack Built," this tells of the despairing trail of crack/cocaine from the cultivation of ``. . . the plants that people can't eat," to the addicted mother and baby, the overworked cop, and the other victims and villains of the inner-city drug trade. The handsome, somber modernist paintings echo Picasso's earliest proto-Cubist work, and will appeal to an older age group, although the strong line, touches of bright color, and representational style do make them accessible to younger children. It will work best for any age when introduced by an adult and used as the basis for serious discussion. An afterword for adults by PBS activist Michael Pritchard and a brief list of national organizations working in addiction services are appended. This is a unique book, disturbing but valuable. The challenge will be where to shelve it and how to introduce it. --Rosanne Cerny, Queens

Borough Public Library, NY

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From Kirkus Reviews

A harrowing takeoff on ``The House That Jack Built," this cumulative rhyme takes readers from a large, comfortable house somewhere in Latin America, through the network of cocaine production and distribution, to the ``Girl who's killing her brain/Smoking the crack that numbs the pain" and the ``Baby with nothing to eat/Born of the girl..." The haunting, rhythmical text is enhanced by stylized, shadowed color illustrations featuring desperate-looking figures roaming an urban landscape, their heads cocked or even upside-down. The message is reinforced with a closing appeal by drug counselor Michael Pritchard, plus information about five national anti-drug organizations. An effective, non-preachy tool for drug educators at any level.

(Nonfiction/Picture book. 3+) -- *Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gertrude Call:

The book The House That Crack Built can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. Exactly why must we leave the good thing like a book The House That Crack

Built? Several of you have a different opinion about book. But one aim that book can give many data for us. It is absolutely right. Right now, try to closer using your book. Knowledge or details that you take for that, you could give for each other; you may share all of these. Book The House That Crack Built has simple shape however, you know: it has great and big function for you. You can search the enormous world by available and read a publication. So it is very wonderful.

Lawrence Weatherby:

Do you really one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt when you are in the book store? Make an effort to pick one book that you never know the inside because don't evaluate book by its protect may doesn't work is difficult job because you are scared that the inside maybe not because fantastic as in the outside seem likes. Maybe you answer could be The House That Crack Built why because the wonderful cover that make you consider with regards to the content will not disappoint an individual. The inside or content is definitely fantastic as the outside or maybe cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly make suggestions to pick up this book.

Brent Henderson:

The book untitled The House That Crack Built contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains the woman idea with easy method. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read that. The book was written by famous author. The author brings you in the new era of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can available their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice read.

Santiago Klein:

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