



The Fossil Girl

By Catherine Brighton

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The Fossil Girl By Catherine Brighton Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 2-4-In this bicentennial year of Anning's birth, Brighton presents a comic-strip style account of the British paleontologist's legendary childhood discovery of the first ichthyosaur skeleton. Like Laurence Anholt, whose picture book biography tells Mary's childhood in *Stone Girl, Bone Girl* (Orchard, 1999), Brighton fictionalizes in re-creating the amazing find. Her spare telling features a determined, somewhat older-looking Mary, her brother Joe, and their widowed mother, whose modest seaside home and curiosity shop are battered one stormy night. While Mary and Joe search for new fossil treasures to replenish their lost livelihood, they discover the enormous unknown creature embedded high in the cliff. In a scenario of derring-do, Mary mounts a crude wooden tower built by a neighbor to lower segments of the fossil. "Then, as the cart pulled away across the beach, there was a sudden CRACK-and the tower collapsed like a pack of cards!" All ends well as the children charge the townsfolk a penny a piece to see their great treasure, and Mary negotiates a selling price with the Lord of the Manor. Brighton's concluding note summarizes Anning's adult discoveries and her role in the history of science. Picture panels in a variety of groupings carry small blocks of narrative over watercolor scenes in muted tones, while dialogue balloons add bits of detail. The graphic-story format is well suited to the dramatic structure of events. Differing in details, neither Anholt nor Brighton acknowledge sources. The story is appealing in either case, and this cartoon adventure of a real-life heroine will be a fine choice for most collections.

Margaret Bush, Simmons College, Boston

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From Library Journal

Grade 2-4-With a comic-book layout, staccato prose, and sun-drenched illustrations, this real-life adventure of a curious English girl is an exciting introduction to the 19th-century paleontologist. (May)

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From Kirkus Reviews

This charming volume uses comic-strip frames to depict the events leading to Mary Anning's 1810 discovery in Dorset, England, of the skeleton of an ichthyosaurus. After their father died, Mary and Joe Anning would go out in all weather to collect curiosities to sell in their mother's shop. One day, a huge storm came and "all the curiosities were swept away." So they set out again, and this time they found something huge imbedded in the rocks of a tall cliff. Mary had a tower built, chipped away at the structure, lowered it down by ropes, piece by piece, and hauled it home. Long lines formed to see the discovery, and "Mary and Joe charged each person a penny to see the curiosity. Now they could afford their first hot meal for months." Henry Henley, lord of the manor, told Mary that she had found the fossilized remains of a creature who lived in the sea millions of years ago. He bought it from her and had it transported to London. Brighton gives the facts surrounding Mary's fame a straightforward treatment, while making the details of her life accessible in frame after frame of atmospheric illustration. (Picture book. 5-8) -- *Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Elaine Bell:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite book and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled The Fossil Girl. Try to stumble through book The Fossil Girl as your pal. It means that it can to get your friend when you sense alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunated in your case. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , let us make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

David Dugas:

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Patrick Walker:

The particular book The Fossil Girl has a lot info on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was written by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research just before write this book. This specific book very easy to read you can get the point easily after perusing this book.

Robert Bell:

In this time globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make professionals understand the condition of the world. The health of the world makes the information better to share. You can find a lot of referrals to get information example: internet, newspaper, book, and soon. You will see that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. Typically the book that recommended for you is The Fossil Girl this publication consist a lot of the information on the condition of this world now. This specific book was represented how can the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. The writer made some investigation when he makes this book. This is why this book appropriate all of you.

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