



It Was a Dark and Stormy Night (Viking Kestrel picture books)

By Allan Ahlberg, Janet Ahlberg

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After being kidnapped by outlaws, Antonio, an eight-year old boy is asked to tell them a story which he makes up as he goes along.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Meticulously meshing words and pictures, the Ahlbergs (*The Jolly Postman*) present an unusually witty yarn-within-a-yarn. Dozing while tending his family's goats, eight-year-old Antonio is kidnapped by a band of brigands and their bored chief, who demands that the boy tell a story to pass the time during, yes, a dark and stormy night. A rather rude bunch, the rogues keep interrupting Antonio (whose tale features these very brigands), heavily editing his narrative ("No crocodiles or sharks--no jaws!"; "No Brussels sprouts!"). With a good-natured "Right-o!," the lad repeatedly starts over. Eventually Antonio tells of a "Thingy" lurking in a castle moat who is about to do in the chief and his cronies. As this distresses them greatly, the boy wisely switches his plot to "something pleasant": a lavish banquet followed by a treasure hunt. But when Antonio's tale has the chief demanding all of the booty, the fictional brigands protest loudly--much to the chagrin of the real brigands, who fear their master's wrath. Mayhem ensues, leading to a very clever finale. As always, Janet Ahlberg's delightfully detailed art offers youngsters lots to look at--and to laugh at. Ages 7-10. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

Ages 5-8. Captured by brigands, taken to their mountain cave, and ordered to tell a story, a plucky lad named Antonio entertains his captors with a tale that captivates the childlike chief and his band of dim-witted desperadoes. Led into acting out the story, the brainless brigands eventually fall into such confusion that Antonio escapes and returns to his loving family. Rather like Colin McNaughton's *Jolly Roger* (1988) in its spacious format and humorous tone, this illustrated story offers the satisfaction of an eight-year-old outwitting a band of outlaws more silly than sinister. The large pages give plenty of space for the detailed, full-color artwork and plenty of room for the text to linger over words, words, words: "Roast potatoes . . . tons of them, all crisp and golden--and piping hot, freshly made spaghetti, tagliatelli, vermicelli, macaroni--and, best of all, perhaps, a huge tureen of delicious and enticing stew." An appealing read-aloud choice with a longer story than most picture books. *Carolyn Phelan*

About the Author

Allan Ahlberg, former teacher, postman, plumber's mate and gravedigger, is in the super-league of children's writers. He has published over a hundred children's books and is the author of the prize-winning *Each Peach Pear Plum* and *The Jolly Postman*. He has also written prize-winning fiction and poems for older readers. Allan lives in Bath.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jennifer Day:

Book is to be different for every grade. Book for children till adult are different content. As we know that book is very important for people. The book *It Was a Dark and Stormy Night* (Viking Kestrel picture books) ended up being making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It is extremely advantages for you. The reserve *It Was a Dark and Stormy Night* (Viking Kestrel picture books) is not only giving you more new information but also to be your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your own personal spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship with all the book It

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