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The King and the Sea

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~~Editor's Choice:~~

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

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Originally published in German, by an award-winning Austrian author and the German winner of the 2006 **Hans Andersen Medal** for illustration, this, as you might expect, is a highly accomplished and thought provoking picture book. In twenty-one double page spreads the King of the title enters into poetic conversation, one by one, with a variety of interlocutors. Some are inanimate objects, like a trumpet and a fishing net; some are phenomena and creatures of the natural world, for instance the sea, night, a dog, a tree, and a squirrel; and others are more nebulous, like a ghost and sleep. The result is an extended eccentric and quasi-philosophical meditation, reminiscent in some ways of **The Little Prince**, as the King gradually explores the world and his place in it. Funny and enigmatic, it's a book in which childlike simplicity (wax crayon plays a large role in the naïve figure of the King), is used to puncture hubris. It can be read with wonder, enjoyment and profit by adults as well as children.

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