



Tunes for Bears to Dance To

By Robert Cormier

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A masterful portrayal of hatred, prejudice and manipulation that challenges readers to examine how they would behave in the face of evil. Henry meets and befriends Mr. Levine, an elderly Holocaust survivor, who is carving a replica of the village where he lived and which was destroyed in the war. Henry's friendship with Mr. Levine is put to the test when his prejudiced boss, Mr. Hairston, asks Henry to destroy Mr. Levine's village.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Numb and lonely after his brother's death, Henry is befriended by a bigoted new employer, who attempts to involve the boy in an act of cruelty against a Holocaust survivor. Ages 12-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 6-9-- This brief, compelling book conveys the devastating effects of evil, whether its form is as huge and incomprehensible as the Holocaust, or as small and personal as another human being. Henry, a young teenager, is lucky to be employed. Since his brother's recent death, his father is paralyzed by depression; his mother works long hours to support the family. It's the early 1950s, and, with the return of the servicemen, housing and jobs are scarce. Unfortunately, Henry's boss is a bigoted, abusive individual whose hatred of others is so consuming that he intentionally sets out to corrupt the boy's goodness. He forces Henry to commit an ugly, violent act and betray a friendship with an elderly neighbor who has lost his home and family to the Nazis. As part of his rehabilitative therapy, Mr. Levine lovingly carves his vanished village and its population out of wood. The scenes in which he is "home" again demonstrate the Holocaust's horror in a deeply moving manner, and Cormier wrenchingly personalizes the man's grief. *Tunes for Bears to Dance To*, more a parable than a fully realized novel, is sharp, short, and to the point. The characters are fairly one-dimensional and their circumstances are portrayed as black or white. Why they are "good" or "evil" is not explained, and little room is left for shades of gray. They simply embody the concepts Cormier is exploring. This book has limitations, but it will not be easily forgotten. It will make fascinating material for group discussion. -- Lucinda Snyder Whitehurst, County of Henrico Public Library, Richmond, VA
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Review

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

George Gomez:

The book *Tunes for Bears to Dance To* make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable much more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting stress or having big problem with the subject. If you can make studying a book *Tunes for Bears to Dance To* to become your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You could know everything if you like available and read a e-book *Tunes for Bears to Dance To*. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or other individuals. So, how do you think about this publication?

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If you don't have spare time to do others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. They must answer that question simply because just their can do this. It said that about publication. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is suitable. Because start from on guardería until university need this kind of Tunes for Bears to Dance To to read.

Jack Harbin:

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Pamela Cole:

Tunes for Bears to Dance To can be one of your basic books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to get every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing Tunes for Bears to Dance To yet doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one among it. This great information could drawn you into fresh stage of crucial considering.

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