



Hewitt Anderson's Great Big Life

By Jerdine Nolen

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Young Hewitt Anderson is sweet, smart, polite—and very, very small. This warmly humorous tale with audio is “proof that, when it comes to heart, physical size isn’t the whole story” (*Kirkus Reviews*).

Young Hewitt Anderson is his parents' pride and joy, and they love him so. Hewitt is sweet, smart, polite -- everything a boy could be -- except Hewitt is small...very small...teeny-weeny, in fact.

Descended from a long line of giants, the J. Carver Worthington Andersons take their height very seriously indeed. You see, without exception all of the many J. Carver Worthington Andersons have been giants until now. And poor Hewitt -- hidden in the floorboards, trapped in the flour vat, lost in the bedsheets -- has his struggles being tiny. Oh, his parents worry: How will their son manage to live in a world of big things? Leave it to Hewitt to prove the power of being small.

Inspired by the tale of "Jack and the Beanstalk," the inimitable Jerdine Nolen tells an original story of bravery and the power of the individual. Kadir Nelson's imaginative and loving illustrations create a world where smallness rules -- a world that children will want to return to again and again.

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By *Jerdine Nolen*

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 3—Hewitt Anderson is a normal-sized boy born into a family of giants who firmly believe that bigger is better. At the age of seven, their son is so tiny that his anxious parents consult doctors and specialists from all over the world. When none of them can explain "the circumstances surrounding Hewitt's small and unimposing stature," the loving parents formulate some lessons in survival for the boy. However, it is the little guy himself who ends up helping them survive the lessons. They are constantly amazed at Hewitt's resourcefulness and talents and finally realize that rather than worrying so much about his size, they should recognize that he is perfect just the way he is—something that the youngster already knows. Nelson's funny, larger-than-life oil paintings warmly depict this African-American family and give readers a real sense of gigantic proportions. They are visions of contrasts in size. On one page Hewitt stands on the mantle looking at family photographs. He is half the size of the smallest frame. In other pictures, he is curled up fast asleep in the center of his father's hand, or riding on the brim of his mother's bonnet. Told in colorful language that begs to be read aloud, this humorous, oversize book offers a gentle look at accepting others as they are.—*Mary N. Oluonye, Shaker Heights Public Library, OH*

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Review

Low on suspense but high on sheer feel-goodness, this Tom Thumb-like original tale will elicit sighs of content from readers and listeners needing a change of pace. Born to adoring, humongous parents, tiny Hewitt sometimes does get lost in his immense bed, or have to dive between the floorboards to avoid a passing broom. Still, not only do the good times far outnumber the chancy ones, but his size comes in downright handy when, for instance, his father carries him up a towering beanstalk, then turns out to be afraid of heights, or his parents lock themselves in the treasure house. Nelson's burly, monumental, brown-skinned giants positively glow with beneficence, and Nolen writes, as always, with a distinctive mix of humor and formality: Listening to his parents sing "made Hewitt's liver quiver and tickled his funny bone right down to his shoes." Here's proof that, when it comes to heart, physical size isn't the whole story. (Picture book. 6-8) (Kirkus Reviews)

About the Author

Jerdine Nolen

Jerdine Nolen is the beloved author of many award-winning books, including *Big Jabe*, *Thunder Rose* (a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book), and *Hewitt Anderson's Great Big Life* (a Bank Street Best Book of the Year), all illustrated by Kadir Nelson. She is also the author of *Eliza's Freedom Road*, illustrated by Shadra Strickland, which was an ALA/YALSA Best Fiction Nominee for Young Adults; *Raising Dragons*, illustrated by Elise Primavera, which received the Christopher Award; and *Harvey Potter's Balloon Farm*, illustrated by Mark Buehner, which won the Kentucky Bluegrass Award. Her other books include *Plantizilla*, illustrated by David Catrow, which was a BOOKSENSE 76 Selection, and *Irene's Wish*, illustrated by A.G. Ford, which *Kirkus Reviews* called "delightful and memorable" in a starred review. Ms. Nolen is an educator and lives in Ellicott City, Maryland.

Kadir Nelson

Kadir Nelson is an award-winning American artist whose works have been exhibited in major national and

international publications, institutions, art galleries, and museums. Nelson is the illustrator of many beloved, award-winning, and bestselling picture books including, *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*, winner of the Coretta Scott King and Robert F. Sibert Award; *Thunder Rose*, written by Jerdine Nolen, which received a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Award; *Ellington Was Not a Street*, written by Ntozake Shange, which received a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award; *Hewitt Anderson's Great Big Life*, written by Jerdine Nolen, which won the 2005 Society of Illustrators Gold Medal; and *Mama Miti: Wangari Maathai and the Trees of Kenya* by Donna Jo Napoli called "stunning" by *Kirkus Reviews* in a starred review. He is also the illustrator of Deloris Jordan and Roslyn M. Jordan's *Salt in His Shoes* and Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee's *Please, Baby, Please* and *Please, Puppy, Please*. Kadir Nelson lives in Los Angeles.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ellen Weiss:

The ability that you get from Hewitt Anderson's Great Big Life will be the more deep you rooting the information that hide within the words the more you get serious about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to comprehend but Hewitt Anderson's Great Big Life giving you buzz feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in selected way that can be understood simply by anyone who read the item because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this specific Hewitt Anderson's Great Big Life instantly.

Antoinette Hogg:

The book untitled Hewitt Anderson's Great Big Life is the publication that recommended to you to read. You can see the quality of the reserve content that will be shown to anyone. The language that creator use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The article author was did a lot of analysis when write the book, hence the information that they share to you is absolutely accurate. You also will get the e-book of Hewitt Anderson's Great Big Life from the publisher to make you far more enjoy free time.

Tracey Cook:

This Hewitt Anderson's Great Big Life is great guide for you because the content which can be full of information for you who all always deal with world and possess to make decision every minute. This specific book reveal it details accurately using great coordinate word or we can declare no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read the idea hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but tricky core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having Hewitt Anderson's Great Big Life in your hand like having the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no guide that offer you world throughout ten or fifteen moment right but this publication already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt in which?

Jeffrey Garner:

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