



The Dangerous Alphabet

By Neil Gaiman

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A is for Always, that's where we embark . . .

Two children, treasure map in hand, and their pet gazelle sneak past their father, out of their house, and into a world beneath the city, where monsters and pirates roam.

Will they find the treasure? Will they make it out alive?

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The Dangerous Alphabet By Neil Gaiman Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 3–5—A sophisticated, interactive alphabet tale in which even the letters break the expected pattern. Thirteen rhyming couplets spin the story of two siblings and their pet gazelle who sneak past their father, board a small boat, and follow a stream into a mysterious underworld to search for a treasure. Skillful narrative and visual storytelling combine to present a complex adventure that unravels through multilayered text and illustrations, challenging readers to ponder the numerous levels of plot. When the sister is tempted ashore by villains holding candy and captured, her brother follows in hot pursuit, rushing through a labyrinth realm filled with pirates, monsters, trolls, and other fearsome creatures. Youngsters can mull over questions about the nature of the treasure seeking (the cache turns out to be pretty unappealing) and why W precedes V in the alphabet sequence ("warnings" before "vile deeds"). The gothic illustrations, done in sepia tones and faded color washes, ensure that readers remain riveted throughout the story, since there are spine-chilling details at every turn. Images of objects beginning with the letter featured on the page add to the fun. This is the right book for those who find satisfaction and pleasure in creepy and sinister tales.—*Susannah Richards, Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, CT*

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From [Booklist](#)

Our journey begins on the title page, as two Victorian children and pet gazelle slip away from their father, treasure map in hand, and embark on an alphabetical path through a sewer populated with every sort of ghoul, only to emerge safe at home at the end. Following the "A is for ..." format, Gaiman's text takes the form of 13 tight, evocative rhyming couplets, hand-lettered by Grimley. Page turns divide each couplet, moving the action forward and building the sense of mystery. The illustrations do double duty, telling the children's story and filling each letter's page with suitably ghastly, nominal matter. There's some disturbing stuff on display (the sewer walls are lined with children bound in chains, straitjackets, and rusty manacles), but the character of the pictures, spiky and knobby and childlike, and a palette of beiges accented by muted pastels, mitigates the creepiness. In the end, Gaiman and Grimley have combined forces to produce an acrid, gothic confection that bubbles with vitriol and wit. Grades 1-4. --Thom Barthelmess

About the Author

Neil Gaiman is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the novels *Neverwhere*, *Stardust*, *American Gods*, *Coraline*, *Anansi Boys*, *The Graveyard Book*, *Good Omens* (with Terry Pratchett), *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*, and *The Truth Is a Cave in the Black Mountains*; the Sandman series of graphic novels; and the story collections *Smoke and Mirrors*, *Fragile Things*, and *Trigger Warning*. He is the winner of numerous literary honors, including the Hugo, Bram Stoker, and World Fantasy awards, and the Newbery and Carnegie Medals. Originally from England, he now lives in the United States. He is Professor in the Arts at Bard College.

Gris Grimly is a children's book illustrator who moonlights in painting and filmmaking. Some of his best-known works include *Gris Grimly's Frankenstein*, *Edgar Allan Poe's Tales of Mystery and Madness* and *Edgar Allan Poe's Tales of Death and Dementia*, and Neil Gaiman's bestselling picture book *The Dangerous Alphabet*. He lives in Los Angeles.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jacquelyn Lopez:

Here thing why that The Dangerous Alphabet are different and dependable to be yours. First of all looking at a book is good but it depends in the content of the usb ports which is the content is as delicious as food or not. The Dangerous Alphabet giving you information deeper since different ways, you can find any book out there but there is no guide that similar with The Dangerous Alphabet. It gives you thrill studying journey, its open up your own eyes about the thing that happened in the world which is might be can be happened around you. It is possible to bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your means home by train. If you are having difficulties in bringing the printed book maybe the form of The Dangerous Alphabet in e-book can be your alternative.

Carolyn Fletcher:

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