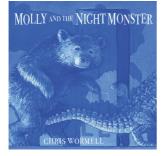
childrens book review



It is that dead time of night, when every creak of the stair is magnified, every squeak a scream and Molly, lying awake in her bed, hears a footstep outside her door. In fear her imagination runs wild. What could it be? A crocodile, a bear, or worse; a night-monster? Showing considerable bravery in her terror

she sets a trap for the monster.

A reassuring bedtime read Chris Wormell's Molly and the Night Monster tackles the age-old fear of the dark with warmth and a hug.

Wormell's realistic style of illustration is a rare one in this age of primary colours and minimalism. There is a traditional, rather nostalgic feel to it, which is in itself comforting to the parent if not to the child.

Following the success of The Saddest King and George and the Dragon he has chosen to colour the illustration entirely in blue. This has an effect that, like the night, can be either calming or sinister. His exquisite attention to detail, to light and shade, means this bold colour choice only adds to the beauty of his drawings.

Chris Wormell, Molly and the Night Monster (Jonathan Cape, Hbk, 2008), £10.99.



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