



All Alone

Claire Huchet Bishop , Feodor Rojankovsky (Illustrator)

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After climbing the high slopes of the French Alps to tend his family's cows, ten-year-old Marcel is faced with a difficult dilemma--obey his father or help a friend.

All Alone Details

Date : Published 1953 by Scholastic

ISBN : 9780590457071

Author : Claire Huchet Bishop , Feodor Rojankovsky (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback 90 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Childrens, Adventure, Fiction

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From Reader Review All Alone for online ebook

Books Kids Like says

Ten year-old Marcel Mabout is sent to pasture the family's three heifers on the Little Giant with a strict admonition. "Don't visit, keep to yourself, mind your own business, attend to your own cows and nothing else." Marcel doesn't understand but knows he cannot question his elders. The first night on the mountain, the silence is broken by the yodeling of Pierre Pascal who is spending the summer on the Big Giant with his four heifers. Marcel decides to yodel back. Each night, the boys talk to each other. They know it's forbidden but the comfort it brings them outweighs their fear of punishment. One afternoon, both boys fall asleep, and three of Pierre's heifers wander over to Marcel's pasture. Marcel knows that he should follow his village creed and shoo them away. Then, he realizes that they will meet with mishap if he does so he decides to let them stay. Later, when Marcel leads the cows to drink, he finds Pierre frantically searching for them. As the boys leave to go back to their own pastures, a horrible storm breaks loose on the mountain top. During the events that follow, the boys learn a valuable lesson in cooperation. This book was published in 1953 and won a Newbery Honor award the next year. Despite its age, All Alone presents a timeless story. Bishop weaves tidbits of local culture and shepherding techniques with the high adventure of a terrible storm. She also tells how age-old traditions can change in the face of near disaster. I think the book would make for a great experience if a parent and child read it together. And, I just love the beautiful Guernsey (at least I think that's the breed) cow on the cover!

Courtney says

This was one of those Newbery honors where you seen why it was honored then but maybe not now.

K. says

Contender for read aloud, school year 12/13. JoAnne, I think this one makes the cut! This could be our "French Alps" bit of culture! What if we have a map and place all our books on it in their locations?

What a little treasure!! This is a really simple, small book (under 100 pages) that holds a lot of heart and a great message. Doing what's right and helping another human in need will always bring you blessings in the long run.

Newberry Honor book, 1948.

Anna says

a cute story of two boys who take care of their papas' cows.

Sharon Buxton says

B. children's fiction, grade 3, French Alps, community, boy protagonist, Mom's stash, keep.

Vonnie says

This was a sweet book about a boy that lived the golden rule against the wishes of his father. It always feels good to read a book with a moral to the story.

Phil Jensen says

A young French child living near the Alps learns to reject self-sufficiency and embrace Communism.

Rachael Marsceau says

Loved the illustrations, and of course I agree with loving and helping our neighbors, but this smacks of communism and me no like.

Marlene says

Overcoming tradition to help other people turns out to be the best thing for everyone.

Allen says

This small book can be summed up by the phrase “love your neighbor”. It must have been a week year for books. I’m kind of surprised this one was an honor book, as I did not think it was very well written.

Jeanette says

Two young boys are herding cattle in the mountains during the summer when disaster strikes. A short, sweet (perhaps a little to sweet) story that won a newbery honor in the 1950s.

The ending was a bit much for me and overall I thought the story was told in extremes, making it a little difficult to find it believable.

Charles says

A charming little book, fully illustrated. A simple tale. In a rural village in France, the people are at odds with each other. Two boys who are left alone to herd their family cattle in the mountain valleys must come together to help them both survive. The village learns from their example. I enjoyed it. The set up was rather heavy handed, but I thought the writing was decent.

Thomas Bell says

I agree that the ending was a little too much. Could have started the town in the right direction, letting it heal over many years future to the book being written. Either way, it was a fun read with some good morals.

Laura Verret says

Marcel has been entrusted with a very important job – he is to bring his family’s three heifers up to their pastures on the Little Giant where he will stay for the entire summer watching them. There is only one thing that makes him sad. And this is that his father has forbidden him to speak or interact with the other shepherd boys who will be up in the mountains.

One day, three strange heifers wander into Marcel’s camp. Marcel knows what his father would do – turn the heifers out and not be concerned if they fell over a cliff and destroyed their herd boy’s reputation. But Marcel cannot bring himself to be so cruel – he knows how hard it is to control the unruly heifers. So he keeps the three heifers with his herd, bringing them down to the watering spot where he hopes their owner will be. The owner is there – a little boy named Pierre – and they become fast friends. But while Marcel is with Pierre, a storm brews over his mountain. Eager to escape it, he leaves with Pierre and hastens up Pierre’s mountain, thinking that he can make it back to his mountain after the storm finishes. But the storm creates a landslide and blocks all entrances to Pierre’s mountain.

Will the way be cleared by the villagers or will the boys starve up on the mountain? And if they are discovered together, what will their fathers say?

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Liz says

A delightful story about a small town in France, caring for each other and sharing resources.
