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Hilda And The Black Hound



Synopsis

The fourth in Luke Pearson's acclaimed series of magical adventures starring Hilda, our favorite blue-haired heroine; now in paperback! Hilda stumbles upon Tontu, a lost house spirit. Plunged into the secret world of the Nisse, Hilda discovers hidden passages that only the house spirits can navigate; and something has been ransacking them all! Luke Pearson won the Young People's Comic category at the British Comic Awards in 2012 and was nominated for the Eisner Award's Best Publication for Kids and Best Writer/Artist in 2013. He recently worked as a storyboard artist on the cult show *Adventure Time*. He lives in Bristol.

Book Information

Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: Flying Eye Books; Reprint edition (August 29, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1911171070

ISBN-13: 978-1911171072

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.2 x 11.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 25 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #107,188 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #73 in *Books > Teens >*

Literature & Fiction > Comics & Graphic Novels > Science Fiction & Fantasy #374 in *Books >*

Comics & Graphic Novels > Fantasy Graphic Novels #2177 in *Books > Comics & Graphic*

Novels > Graphic Novels

Customer Reviews

Gr 3-5 • While Pearson's wide-eyed, turquoise-haired protagonist goes about joining the Sparrow Scouts and learns some handy skills from building campfires to erecting shelters, a large, "wolf-like" creature prowls about Trolberg. People have gone missing, and a sighting of the hound ends Hilda's first camping trip. Back home, more mysterious happenings occur; all over town, Nisse (those furry-faced house spirits that live behind bookcases and the "gaps in the floorboards") are being tossed out in the street, forced to fend for themselves. After a face-to-face with the hound, Hilda sees an opportunity to earn her first scout badge, which thus far has eluded her. She visits the library, digs up newspaper articles, draws sketches of the creature, interviews townsfolk who may or may not have seen the creature, maps the locations of suspected sightings, and puts together a Common Core-worthy, book-length report earning her "Friend

to Animals" badge. Unfortunately, the award ceremony is interrupted by the hound falling through the ceiling, but in the chase that ensues several mysteries are solved, including that of the Nisse's displacement. Sound like a lot of plot? It is, but Pearson pulls it off with aplomb. The full-size volume offers a minimum of 10 panels of varying sizes per page. Darker shades dominate when the beast lurks, and earth tones and reds and oranges when the characters go about their daily business. Touches of humor abound in both images and dialogue. A book sure to garner new fans for this feisty adventurer. —Daryl Grabarek, School Library Journal --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Hilda is coming to Netflix in 2018! A School Library Journal Top Graphic Novel of 2014 A Booklist Top 10 Graphic Novel for Youth of 2014 A Texas Library Association Little Mavericks Nominee for 2015 "Plain smart and moving. John Stanley's Little Lulu meets Miyazaki." —Guillermo Del Toro Pearson's utter lack of pretension keeps Hilda feeling fresh, while his reading of folktales and Tove Jansson's Moomin series embeds Hilda in the long history of children's stories. [Hilda's dilemmas, while fantastic, also feel real] Pearson has found a lovely new way to dramatize childhood demons, while also making you long for your own cruise down the fjords. —The New Yorker Though definitely an underachiever when it comes to merit badges, Hilda's broad curiosity and willingness to stand up for the undergnome will make her a winner in most readers' eyes. —Kirkus Reviews In gorgeous, oversize pages filled with warm jewel tones, Pearson's varied panel layouts and detailed, purplish backgrounds artfully carry emotional weight and subtle humor in equal measure. [Every volume of this fairy-tale-adventure series is a must-have.] Pearson has mastered both the gentler aspects of creating a compelling children's character along with the art of conjuring an exciting, kinetic comic book adventure. The fourth book in the Hilda series is the best, as the character is now established enough on the page to allow for a greater exploration of her environment. The design, the use of color and especially Pearson's line are all impeccably beautiful without being slick. —The Comics Journal One thing is for certain: if you're like me and have the previous books already, then the good news is that "Black Hound" is an excellent addition to the series. And if you've never checked out a "Hilda" folk book before, then the better news is that "Black Hound" is a great place to start. A shift from the previous books in style but not losing an iota of the established, accessible and (most importantly) friendly tone, "Hilda and the Black Hound" is exactly the type of comics

we need to see more of. *Multiversity* [Hilda's world] is. . . a glorious, exciting if also rather menacing place. One children will be eager to enter. It's also visually arresting: exuberant and lively and faintly Miyazakian. *New York Times* Hilda is the little girl. And this is her folk tale. And pretty much everything you need to know about how good this is is there on that absolutely gorgeously delightful cover. By the end of it, you'll have exactly the same smile as Hilda has. *Forbidden Planet* For adults ... Pearson's measured storytelling ... and detailed, imaginative artwork make *Hilda and the Bird Parade* an absolute treat to dive into. It's hard to imagine a better all-ages comic will be published this year. *Slate* Very enjoyable, it's imaginative and fun for kids and adults too! *Renata Liewska*, author of bestselling *The Quiet Book* With the *Hildafolk* series, Luke Pearson has carved himself a unique niche in the UK comics scene: a successful all-ages graphic novel series and it is much deserved. It is clearly the vision of one man and *Hilda and the Black Hound* is another thrilling and alluring instalment to Pearson's signature series. *Broken Frontier* A riot of colour and animist magic *The Times* A beautifully drawn (literally and figuratively) comic *Observer* The *Hilda* books follow the exploits of a smart, blue-haired girl who lives in a village called Trolberg with her mom and her antlered pup named Twig. Pearson expertly mixes fantasy elements with familiar everyday stuff. For instance, in this volume, Hilda joins the scouts and has trouble completing the tasks she needs to do in order to earn her badges. *Mental Floss* *Hilda and the Black Hound* is filled with magic, in all senses of that word. *Comics Bulletin* These are gorgeous books and *Flying Eye*, like *Nobrow* before it, continues to be a publisher to watch. The *Hildafolk* books all feel like they're children's books for the ages as soon as you read them and *Hilda and the Black Hound* is a beautiful addition to the series. *Comicsgirl* There's a subtlety and sophistication to the *Hildafolk* books; pauses and quiet panels speak volumes to what a character is thinking or feeling. While Pearson's art style could be described as simple cartooning, he does what masterful illustrators do, express a lot of emotion and mood with few, clean lines and rich color. You get incredibly detailed and powerful panels and pages which never feel cluttered, unless they're intended to be. These are truly beautiful books and *Hilda*'s charming sense of wonder is appealing to everyone, no matter how old or young. *The Mary Sue* This is perfection in sixty-four pages. Hilda is brave, resourceful, compassionate, capable of epically screwing up, and always does things with the very best of intentions; in other words, totally human. Charmingly and enticingly illustrated, the icing on the cake is the fact that Pearson never dumbs things down for his audience. The resulting dry wit found in both text and illustrations is as appealing

to adults as it is to kids.

Foreword ReviewsThe attractions of the Hilda series are quite easily surmised. There is the clever knitting together of various northern European traditions, the artist's increasing competency with page composition, his good ear for simple but humorous dialogue, his pleasing character designs, and his consistent and attractive line which has achieved a fine flowering in *The Bird Parade* and *The Black Hound*.

The Hooded UtilitarianHilda is a curious, intelligent, and adventure-seeking protagonist. Fans will delight in her adventures, and Pearson's lush art is gorgeous without being crowded.

School Library JournalThis modern twist on Mary Norton's *Borrowers* is full of fanciful details, and Pearson's imaginative depiction of space turns ordinary surroundings inside out.

Good Comics For KidsThe *Black Hound* takes the strongest elements of the art styles from all of the previous Hilda books and combines them into one really wonderful volume of art. [the adventure here is entertaining and moving.]

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My four-year-old adores this book, and so do I. We read it the first time with baited breath, eager to see the resolution play out, but have enjoyed it just as much with repeated readings. It's incredibly detailed and full of little things we only noticed after reading it and peering at the pictures multiple times. This author is super creative. We've purchased another of his books and my kiddo just picked out a third at the library. Good stuff!

I like Hilda. She's sweet and kind and adventurous. She also accepts the consequences of her actions, which is pretty uncommon in fictitious (and real) children. And in this book, she does screw some things up. Granted, she's trying to solve a different problem when she creates a new one, but it was oddly delightful to see her acknowledge her mistake and accept the consequences. Anyway, if you're new to Hilda, you can definitely start here. She's a girl with a great imagination living in a world full of magic, and her adventures are wonderful.

Pearson really expands his fictional world here with the introduction of not only the Nisse but also

this sidelong dimension that they occupy. He does a great job of telling a complete story but then leaving a number of loose ends unresolved that he can come back to later or just leave to the reader's imagination. My *only* complaint is the explanation of how the messes of all the houses were made. How do you drag things into or out of a hole unless they're sticking to you somehow, or you're actively pushing them out? Aside from that, though, this was perfect with a perfect ending.

In book four in the HILDA series, Pearson continues to chronicle the adventures of a blue-haired little girl growing up in a magical town. The cover is a spectacular work of art. The magical characters are funny. Despite the strange goings-on, everything feels somehow realistic. This book does not disappoint.

Our family is a big fan of this series. My son is 5 yrs. and loves reading Hilda books. The illustrations and unique imaginative storytelling is fabulous! We will hope for more!

My kids and I love this and all of the other Hilda books by Luke Pearson. Beautiful art and storytelling.

Another wonderful book in a spectacular series.

No evil characters!! For new generations!! Teaches to think how we can live with others creatures.

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