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## ***The Girl from Felony Bay* by J. E Thompson (review)**

Kate Quealy-Gainer

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REVIEW

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**In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content:**

Reviewed by:

*Kate Quealy-Gainer, Assistant Editor*

Thompson, J. E. *The Girl from Felony Bay*. Walden Pond/HarperCollins, 2013 [384p] Trade ed. ISBN 978-0-06-210446-5 \$16.99 E-book ed. ISBN 978-0-06-210448-9 \$10.99 Reviewed from

Twelve-year-old Abbey Force is feeling “meaner than a stepped-on-rattlesnake,” and she’s got good reason: last year, her lawyer father had an accident and fell into a coma, and since then he’s been accused of stealing from one of his wealthiest clients, forcing the sale of Abbey’s childhood home, Reward Plantation, and the relocation of Abbey to the house of her abusive uncle. Her only joy now that school’s let out is her job taking care of Reward’s horses, and it’s at the stables that Abbey meets Bee, the daughter of Reward’s newest owner. After a bit of awkwardness, the girls become fast friends, and their afternoon adventures on the plantation’s estate lead to a few key discoveries: first, there’s something suspicious going on down at Felony Bay, which is technically part of Reward, and second, it may have something to do with Abbey’s uncle, her dad’s shady business partner, and the accident that maybe **[End Page 484]** wasn’t an accident after all. Wonderfully inventive colloquialisms and true Southern sass mark Abbey’s narration, and she’s impossible not to like, even when she’s being a bit too precocious for her own good. The bad guys are apparent from the beginning, but it’s puzzling out how they fit together and what exactly their scheme is that will keep readers turning the pages. A character in itself, the South Carolina setting is fully realized with the danger and beauty of its swampy backwoods a factor in every chapter. Future fans of Grisham will find this immensely satisfying, as will readers who were enchanted by Turnage’s *Three Times Lucky* (BCCB 7/12).

a smile, and the dark “never bothered him again.” This is an offbeat—and spookily atmospheric—approach to fear of the dark, with a creative story and high-impact artwork. The limited perspective of Laszlo’s flashlight beam, shrouded around the edges in opaque blackness, allows for a pleasantly creepy build-up of suspense that is then cheerily deflated by the surprise benevolence of the dark. Klassen’s slightly retro gouache and digital art in attractive, muted tones is a perfect match for the text, with the diminutive Laszlo, clad in blue footie pajamas, a fine foil for all the matte black space lurking in doorways and behind curtains; sharp-eyed viewers will note the absence of Laszlo’s ever-present flashlight at book’s end, once he’s made peace with the dark. Kids comfortable with delicious shivers will find this an enjoyable thrill. JH

**TEAGUE, MARK**, ad. *The Three Little Pigs and the Somewhat Bad Wolf*; written and illus. by Mark Teague. Orchard/Scholastic, 2013 [48p]

ISBN 978-0-439-91501-4 \$16.99

Reviewed from galleys

R 4-6 yrs

In Teague’s version of this classic tale, a farm’s three pigs are evicted when the farm’s owners decide to move to Florida and leave them with a stipend for their services to the farm. Preferring to spend their money on potato chips and “sody-pop,” the first and second pigs build their houses out of familiar straw and sticks, respectively, leaving their companion to build a beautiful brick house, complete with a vegetable garden. When the “very hungry and somewhat bad” wolf arrives on the scene . . . well, the rest is history. This version remains faithful to tradition but adds a bit of extra silliness (after blowing the first pig’s house down, the wolf exclaims, “I can’t believe that worked!”) that will provide interest even for listeners who know the story. Teague’s signature full-bleed oil illustrations evoke 1950s Americana through their use of visual details such as deliverymen in folded white paper hats and bright turquoise motor scooters, yet tightly curled twigs and lopsided houses make it very clear that this is a fairy-tale environment. Oversize pages and a happy ending with a rehabilitated wolf make this an excellent read-aloud choice. A solid modernization of a classic, this book works well as standard folkloric fare for the picture-book set. TA

**THOMPSON, J. E.** *The Girl from Felony Bay*. Walden Pond/HarperCollins, 2013 [384p]

Trade ed. ISBN 978-0-06-210446-5 \$16.99

E-book ed. ISBN 978-0-06-210448-9 \$10.99

Reviewed from galleys

R Gr. 5-7

Twelve-year-old Abbey Force is feeling “meaner than a stepped-on-rattlesnake,” and she’s got good reason: last year, her lawyer father had an accident and fell into a coma, and since then he’s been accused of stealing from one of his wealthiest clients, forcing the sale of Abbey’s childhood home, Reward Plantation, and the relocation of Abbey to the house of her abusive uncle. Her only joy now that school’s let out is her job taking care of Reward’s horses, and it’s at the stables that Abbey meets Bee, the daughter of Reward’s newest owner. After a bit of awkwardness, the girls become fast friends, and their afternoon adventures on the plantation’s estate lead to a few key discoveries: first, there’s something suspicious going on down at Felony Bay, which is technically part of Reward, and second, it may have something to do with Abbey’s uncle, her dad’s shady business partner, and the accident that maybe



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The Girl from Felony Bay by J. E Thompson, the impression, which includes the Peak district, and Snowdonia and numerous other national nature reserves and parks, Gothic determines the radiant, using the latest systems of equations.

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