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Picture Books

A Snowgirl Named Just Sue
Mark Kimball Moulton
Karen Hillard Good, illustrator
Ideals Press
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There may be a more famous snowman out there, but there aren't any snowmen more loveable than Bob and Sue. Told completely in rhyme, this lyrical tale will introduce children to these two enchanting snow people and their mystical world.

The author has published more than a dozen storybooks, all with beautiful illustrations and an element of magic, including *Scarecrow Pete* and *Twisted Sistahs*. This volume, along with many of Moulton's previous books, demonstrates his vivid imagination and love of nature. A sequel to *A Snowman Named Just Bob*, this book tells the story of a blossoming romance between Bob and Sue. Bob has many friends who begin to worry as the weather warms a bit and his smile gets a little droopy. It finally snows again and the feeling is magical: "The snow took on an eerie cast—first pink, then red, then rose. Then goose bumps started running from our heads down to our toes." Heart-filled snow covers the whole town, making Bob's friends realize that they must build a companion for Bob: "now our new friends, Bob and Sue, were standing holding hands."

The illustrator, a friend of and frequent artist for Moulton, creates the mystical and simple world for these two snow people and their friends. The sepia tones with pops of color on each page give an old-world feel. One such page shows Bob slowly melting: his red hat is sagging and half of his smile has turned to a frown. A deep orange sun peeks in from the edge of the page and one of Bob's arms has fallen sadly at his feet. The emotion of Moulton's words comes through in each of Good's illustrations.

While not every verse flows smoothly off the tongue, there's enough rhythm and flow to keep younger readers turning the pages. The singsong feel and the message of love and friendship will appeal to all ages. The last page hints to more adventures for Bob and Sue, which may include snow children.

This sequel can stand on its own, but like its characters, Bob and Sue, might be enjoyed more with its partner. Readers will be glad they took the time to get to know a couple of magical snow people.

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