

João by a Thread

Roger Mello

Roger Mello, Illustrator

Daniel Hahn, Translator

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Playing with proportions both in its illustrations and in its language (“A goodnight kiss on the forehead never stops kissing”), this picture book uses intricate line drawings in a stark red, black, and white palette to illustrate its dreamy tale of a boy drifting off to sleep. A pattern on a blanket may be a mountain; the blanket itself is as wide as the night. Musing, wondrous, and weird, it’s a story that stands to charm young ones, yes, but to enchant adults, too.

MICHELLE ANNE SCHINGLER (November / December 2022)

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