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Picture Books

The Moon and the Night Sweeper
Mai S. Kemble
Mai S. Kemble, illustrator
Red Cygnet Press
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Calming a child's fears before sleep can sometimes be a difficult task; reading the right book beforehand could be the solution. Kemble's rhyming, rhythmic picture book will take children on a safe and calming adventure before they close their eyes for the night.

"It's the Moon's voice you hear: 'There is nothing at all for a young lad to fear. It's my special magic that will sweep stardust clear!'" the author writes. These reassuring stanzas create a feeling of floating through out the pages.

The story leads a young boy from his bed into the world of Night Sweepers whose job it is to clear away all the star dust from the roof tops. They sweep, float and tap dance their way through the night until he is safely back in bed: "All gone is the stardust, and your sweeping's complete."

Kemble's watercolor illustrations are painted in rich, deep tones. The young boy's large blue eyes reflect his excitement and wonder. The bright, white, ever smiling moon is jolly and gentle. The twinkle in his eye is matched by the twinkle of stars that touch nearly every page. The special glow-in-the-dark cover can sit on the bedside table and be watched as eyelids grow heavy and dreams begin.

The author received her degree in illustration at California State University, Long Beach. The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators recognized her talent by naming her winner of their illustration contest in July 2006.