



The Well-Dressed Bear Will (Never) Be Found

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The Well-Dressed Bear has been receiving a lot of phone calls for someone named Jonathan. The caller is nothing if not persistent ... and also perhaps desperate. She refuses to believe she has the wrong number, despite the fact that the Well-Dressed Bear has a bear accent. Meanwhile the Well-Dressed Bear is being shunned by human society, who see him as violent and “other,” and by bears, who see him as too civilized or as competition for food (they’re not great at communicating). The story’s premise and design—both adorable—belie a deep, thoughtful investigation into the meaning of identity and imagination. Is there a point at which it’s better to try to blend into society—become something you’re not—than to be your true self? If you believe a thing hard enough, can you make it so? This is a book that begs for rereading on every level.

ALLYCE AMIDON (Winter 2016)

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