

Picture Books

Where Are You?

Francesca Simon David Melling Illus. Peachtree Publishers 978-1-56145-179-1 (August 31, 1998)

On his first trip to the supermarket, Harry smells cupcakes. Following his nose he runs off, leaving Grandpa behind. What follows is a search and find game of minor proportions as they each realize the other is missing. They find each other with a CRASH! and all is well with the world. Told mainly through dialogue and bold print sound effects, the text is simple and minimal. The one-dimensional aspect of the telling is given life by the pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations. Endearing dogs dressed in clothes populate this story. Changing perspectives give a sense of both Grandpa and Harry's points of view while also showing readers how the two keep passing one another. When Harry discovers he's lost, the drawings give insight into his sudden concern and draw readers into the book's emotional trauma. Finally, it is strictly the art that assures readers that Harry eventually gets his cupcake, a sweet conclusion to this little tale.

Martha Topol