

BOOKS NEWS

‘Lindie Lou Adventure Series’ Uncovers the Secret of the Big Apple



Author Jeanne Bender takes a leap in her new children’s chapter book by bravely and beautifully redefining an iconic title we all know and love. Scheduled for release in the fall of this year by Pina Publishing in Seattle.

By Valerie Irvine-Karinen

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The history of this idiom is believed to be in reference to horse race prizes given out in New York in the 1970s, a past that is valued, but is no longer applicable to the city.

Bender instead takes this phrase and gives the meaning a new ideology. She creates an adventurous, educational story around it that applies to the present in an essential way, one that acknowledges and reacts to some of the biggest challenges we face in society today.

With Bender's new definition, this historical title now serves to bring health, safety, understanding, and inclusion to readers. Lessons that apply to all ages, but are especially crucial for children.

The mindset of acceptance has complex psychology, and although there are studies showing that we are naturally wired to be inclusive of others, society often sways our perspectives due to environmental factors. Regardless of exposure, it is always a good idea to encourage individual thinking, and there is no better way to do this than with a basis of fun and adventure.

In *Big City Magic*, the lessons center around appreciation and friendship; that no matter where someone comes from or what they do, everyone brings something different to the table, and everyone is important.

As a nation, we have been increasingly facing a massive influx of hate; targeted toward different races, religions, and nationalities. These sentiments have existed for decades but are presently resurfacing in an astounding and frightening way.

New York City is considered a figurehead for diversity in the country; more than two hundred languages are spoken, and forty percent of the population is born outside of the United States. *Big City Magic* serves as a reminder that despite being the largest and one of the most diverse cities in the country, with citizens who promote respect and understanding, any multi-cultural metropolis can function exquisitely.

This book is significant in countless ways. Not only does it promote many life lessons that any parent would be thrilled to expose their kids to, it also demonstrates to readers of all ages how important it is to be inclusive and appreciative of others.

We need each other, and we need to learn how to love each other in order to begin to heal the wounds that have caused a separation within humankind.

Bender's protagonist, a puppy named Lindie Lou 'Uncovers the Secret of the Big Apple' in this more than average children's chapter book. This story has the ability to impact a child's psychology in a way that is positive for themselves, their community, and the world.

With books like these, and the three other books in the *Lindie Lou Adventure Series*, we can educate our children to act with respect, admiration, and kindness; paving the way into a future where all can feel safe and worthwhile.



lindielou.com

“When I am in New York City, I can feel its energy and magic,” says Bender. “I decided to write about a secret I uncovered when I was there, in my new book.”

Midwest Book Reviews:

Parents of children who are past the elementary picture book level and into reading chapter books and longer readers will appreciate the blend of easy language, big print, and illustrations that nudge readers from picture book to longer forms.

Parents will also appreciate this story's focus on courage, flexibility, and facing life changes with hope and creativity as Lindie Lou imparts some basic insights into dealing with life through her adventurous perspective.

Her enthusiasm about the wider world, her ability to communicate with humans and fellow animals alike, and her involvement with Kris, who brings her a wonderful gift, creates many unexpected moments that lend to parent and child discussion, especially recommended for adults seeking materials that contain bigger-picture thinking rather than entertainment value alone.

The result is a winning story about a wise puppy who takes the world's challenges and runs with them. It's a delightful adventure with more than a light dose of messages for kids about how to live better, more emotionally cognizant lives.