



Butterfly Park

By Elly MacKay

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When a little girl moves to a new town, she finds a place called Butterfly Park. But when she opens the gate, there are no butterflies.

Determined to lure the butterflies in, the girl inspires her entire town to help her. And with their combined efforts, soon the butterflies—and the girl—feel right at home.

Elly MacKay's luminous paper-cut illustrations and enchanting story encourage community, friendship, and wonderment in the beauty of everyday life.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

K-Gr 2—A nameless girl is sad to leave the butterflies when her family moves from a rural house to the city. Luckily, her new house is next door to Butterfly Park, but she finds the park barren of butterflies. She enlists the help of other children to catch butterflies and bring them to the park, but they always fly away again. Chasing the stubborn insects, the children realize that flowers will attract them, and they all pitch in to replant the park. The story concludes happily with a beautified park and the girl feeling right at home. The text of this story is its weakest element, while the artwork shines. The plot is standard picture book fare, but the writing is vague, awkward, and a bit coy. The 3-D "lightbox dioramas," on the other hand, are beautifully creative and atmospheric. Painted paper figures are placed into constructed scenery, lit dramatically, and photographed. Each page glows with jewel tones, and the final spread is a gatefold that displays the neighborhood's proud transformation. As a bonus, the book's dust jacket has a "Plant your own butterfly garden" poster printed on the inside, showing flowers that will attract butterflies. VERDICT A good fit for larger collections, especially those that emphasize gardening or ecology.—Heidi Estrin, Congregation B'nai Israel, Boca Raton, FL

Review

"Each intricately detailed page is like some tiny, delicate stage set, with a blurred background suggesting an even wider world beyond."

—*The New York Times Bookshelf*

"Centered on the park's elaborate art nouveau gateway, MacKay's lyrical paper collage and diorama constructs feature layered details and out-of-focus backgrounds for a sense of depth. Brightly patterned butterflies, delicate flowers, and human figures pose like gracefully off-balance dancers. . . . Worthy of theme and equally pleasing to the eye and the spirit."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

"MacKay's artwork recreates the feel and pleasure of Edwardian-era illustration, and lovers of picture-book fantasy will embrace it."

—*Publishers Weekly*

"The settings are intricate—the Butterfly Park entrance gate is a thing of beauty—and MacKay's sense of composition is spot-on."

—*Bookpage*

"The real treat here is the art. MacKay in in top form, and readers will delight in the mix of colours, textures, and perspectives she employs in creating the visual elements of this lovely book."

—*Quill and Quire*

About the Author

Elly MacKay lives in Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada with her husband and children. She is the author and illustrator of *If You Hold a Seed*, which was selected for The Original Art show by the Society of Illustrators, and *Shadow Chasers*. Her artwork is sold around the world including at her Etsy.com store, Theater Clouds.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Viola Coghlan:

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William Jones:

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