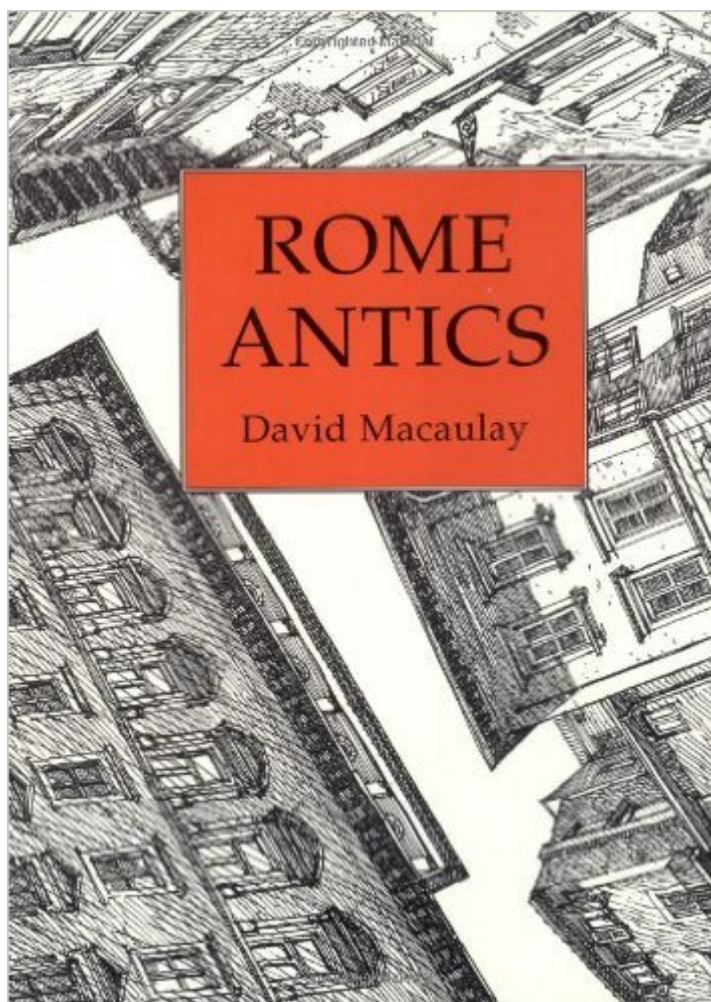


The book was found

Rome Antics



Synopsis

A pigeon carrying an important message takes the reader on a unique tour through Rome. As we follow the path of this somewhat wayward bird, we discover that Rome is a place where past and present live side by side. It is a city that has been recycling itself for two thousand years, but unlike a museum, Rome displays its remarkable history without respect for chronology. A new electric bus travels over cobblestone streets just ten feet above the floor of an ancient stadium. Inscriptions from tombs and temples share wall space with neon. Every time a corner is turned there is a surprise, just as every turn of the page brings a new perspective. This juxtaposition of ancient and modern, as seen with David Macaulay's ingenious vision, gives the reader an imaginative and informative journey through this wondrous city.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 880L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 80 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (October 27, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395822793

ISBN-13: 978-0395822791

Product Dimensions: 12.9 x 9.5 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (15 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #267,999 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #168 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Europe](#) #520 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Birds](#) #840 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art](#)

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

With over 136+ great vocabulary words this book provides more learning than most children's books (vocabulary depends on your child's level). The plot is thick enough to keep even the adult reading it hooked. It all starts when a homing pigeon is sent out with a message changes her usual path to tour the city of Rome on her way to deliver the message. In true Italian style there is a *caffè*, piazza, a soccer game, churches, mopeds, a crumb hunt and more pigeons! The book is presented in simple black and white drawings with the pigeon's path traced in red. The pictures of the story

cover at least 85% of each page with the words at the bottom, as well as labels for each site in Rome that the pigeon is flying past. On the last pages these monuments are listed and briefly described. The font is easy for most children to read, and there are no italicized words making letter distinction even easier to handle for children. All in all a great story for child and reader that does an amazing job describing a foreign city down to the last detail keeping everyone entertained.

Wonderful! Macauley's lively yet precise drawing of bits and pieces of Rome forms a witty masterpiece! The more familiar you are with the architecture of the City of Rome, the more you will cherish this book! It is also a wonderful introduction to the city for a child: Rome can be overwhelming and in *Rome Antics* Macauley makes the city into child's play!

A birds-eye tour of Rome's architecture, specifically a homing pigeon's eye, and it's a bird on a mission, developing into a narrative with a sweet surprise ending. I found it a bit harder to get my bearings in these drawings by the fabulous Macaulay (vs. *Castle* or *Cathedral*), maybe because of the bird's swooping flight, but loved the little story.

We are a big fan of David Macaulay's books, such as *Pyramid*, *Castle*, *Cathedral: The Story of Its Construction*, and *Mill*. His crisp black-and-white drawings make it easy to see important details, while the text is always very informative and interesting. So, when *Rome Antics* was recommended by our history curriculum for next year, we didn't hesitate to buy it. Unfortunately, we've been greatly disappointed. The biggest complaint is the quality of the drawings. They are not nearly as crisp as his usual drawings. There are so many endless attempts to have extra lines going this way and that to add texture that it's hard to make out details. A 1" square drawing of a man's thumbnail had over 2 dozen lines running across it! You don't really get a good feel for what the buildings of Rome look like. On one 2-page spread, the pigeon we're following flies upside down and so the picture is inverted, and I didn't even have enough interest to bother turning the page upside-down to look. There is also no plot. You're just following a bird all around Rome, with no more text on a 2-page spread than "Perhaps the scenic route was not such a good idea." The book was exceedingly dull. The end of the book did have 4 pages that looked back at each of the buildings that was previously flown by. There was a thumbnail picture of the building and a few sentences about it. But, the main part of the book was so difficult to get through that by the time I got to those 4 pages at the end, I had no interest in reading them. Still, that information is why this book is getting a 2-star rating instead of a 1. I would not recommend this book to anyone. I'd recommend any other David

Macaulay book that we've seen, but not this one.

This book is a trip through Roma from a pigeon's point of view. The pigeon flies around, through, over and past many of Rome's historical landmarks, and a brief section in back describes their history and significance. I checked this out of the library to read with my 5 year old after I went to Rome last year, and bought a copy for myself, just to enjoy the pictures and the memories they bring! The Chiesa de San Ignazio (Church of St. Ignatius) is an especial favorite, as my choir performed there to a "standing room only" crowd! Quite a feat for an amateur choir on their first overseas tour! The pen and ink sketches, the snippets of history, and the wonderful way they evoke the charisma of Rome make this a great addition to any child's or adult's library.

David is an awesome writer and can sketch a picture that will draw you in. He uses all this to covertly educate you on the topic at hand. Rome Antics is clever from the title page on. Buy it and enjoy it.

An amazing book of illustrations. If you know Rome, it will trigger all sorts of memories and make you smile.

Share David MacAuley's obviously personal portrait of Rome. It's a portrait in the most obvious sense: lovingly detailed drawings of Rome's greatest architecture captured from MacAuley's witty and often weird perspective. But, through the drawings and the wonderful conceit, you see that this little book is also a personal exploration of a city that touches the heart.

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