

LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

Author

Loftin, Nikki

Illustrator

Illustrated by Deborah Marcero

Reviewer

Barrington, Susannah

Pages

Unpaged

Price

\$18.99

ISBN

978-0-593-37531-0

Publisher & Date

Anne Schwartz Books, 2023

Classification

Fiction

Grade Level

K-2

Book Review: IF YOU GET LOST

In Loftin's IF YOU GET LOST, a little girl's stuffed bunny gets lost out the window of the car as they travel to the lake on a camping trip. As the bunny tries to find its way back to the little girl, it makes friends among the forest animals and learns to handle being lost. In essence, this is an illustrated poem with short phrases per image, using alliteration and repetition to engage the senses. Marcero's beautiful watercolor and ink artwork enhances the poem with colorful scenes of nature depicting the bunny's journey. The poem, instead of narrating the story, explores the feelings of lostness and adventure and belonging.

As with most poetry, there are multiple ways to experience and interpret IF YOU GET LOST. At one level, there is the grounded experience of being physically lost and trying to find one's way through the forest. At another, there is the inner experience of feeling lost and trying to find one's purpose in life. Recommended for school and public libraries, with possible use in programs about nature, feeling lost, or poetry.

