



Mr. Mergler, Beethoven, and Me

David Gutnick, Mathilde Cinq-Mars (Illustrator)

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Not long after arriving in North America from China, a young girl and her father bump into a kind old man at their local park. They have no idea that he has been teaching young people music for over fifty years. Mr. Mergler can hear music in a way that most of us can't, and he knows this little girl has a talent that, with encouragement, will grow into something magical. He gives her a gift that will tie them together forever.

This story is inspired by events in the life of Daniel Mergler—a wonderful musician who loved to teach and whose generous spirit inspires author and journalist David Gutnick to this day.

Mr. Mergler, Beethoven, and Me Details

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Author : David Gutnick , Mathilde Cinq-Mars (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Mr. Mergler, Beethoven, and Me for online ebook

Annie says

Originally published on my blog: Nonstop Reader.

This is a beautifully illustrated and gentle story for young readers. Each of the 32 pages are rendered in pen, ink and watercolor by illustrator Mathilde Cinq-Mars.

The text is written simply and eloquently by David Gutnik. The story follows a young Chinese girl who meets Mr. Mergler with her father in the park and becomes the latest of his many piano students. It's a poignant story and I was surprised to learn that Mr. Mergler was real, and the basic elements of the story were true. There's an afterword with a short biography of both Mr. Mergler and Beethoven.

I loved the art and the story was honestly written. I have experienced the joy and enrichment which comes from music myself, and Mr. Mergler seems to have been a wonderful and generous man whose lifelong dedication to teaching and inspiring hundreds of students over his lifetime is a fitting tribute.

Four stars.

Anticipated release date: 18th April 2018 from Second Story Press

Disclosure: I received an ARC at no cost from the author/publisher.

Leah says

A cute story about a girl studying piano. There is nothing super special or unique about this book, but it is a cute autobiographical story with some sweet illustrations. The story is well told and it highlights the "magic" of music.

Thank you to NetGalley for a copy of this book in return for an honest review.

Lisa Day says

Beautiful story about a man who loves music and teaching children to play.

Amber Webb says

Mr. Mergler, Beethoven, and Me was a beautiful, heartfelt story. The idea of feeling music was felt throughout the book. This was a story that you not only read the words, but felt the emotions as you read. This is a story that there is no turning back from. Once you read it, it is part of you. This is a book that belongs in every music class, with every music teacher and should be read to every child wanting to play

music. The value of connections: to people, music and your surroundings plays a HUGE role in this story. I don't have enough good things to say about this treasure!

Sabrina Kaye Fox says

"Not long after my family arrived from China, I went to the park with my father, whom I call Baba. Lots of people went there to play, enjoy the flowers, and have picnics. That's where I rode my bike, and one special summer morning, it is where I met someone I will always remember."

A family moved from China to North America, and soon after, on a day that Baba and his daughter took a trip to the park, they met a man who would change her life forever. His name was Mr. Mergler.

Mr. Mergler loved music, and he loved teaching children what he knew. He just knew that he had to have her over to teach her what he knew, and bring her capabilities to live.

We all have people in our lives who've taught us lessons that have stuck with us for years. Mr. Mergler was based on a real man who dedicated his whole life to music and teaching others the value and wonder in it. He passed away at the age of 77, but his legacy lived on through his pupils.

This is a super sweet and poignant story, with intricately drawn illustrations throughout. I can't wait to get my hands on a physical copy. I believe this is a children's book that needs to be in all libraries.

Denise Hershberger says

What first caught my eye with this book was Beethoven. I grew up taking piano lessons and later violin and love Beethoven. I found it so precious the way this child was able to take piano lessons from Mr Mergler - but what was truly the most precious part of this story was learning after I read it that it is based on a real life story.

I am always a sucker for a story where people help each other out, so I was thrilled when Mr Mergler wanted to give her piano lessons. I wish there were more people in the world like Mr Mergler.

I received an advanced copy of this book from the publisher through NetGalley. All opinions are my own.

Kajsa says

Such a beautiful little book about piano music, friendship without the concern of age differences and Beethoven.

Barbra says

This is the beautiful story of how a student from China found a wonderful piano teacher who helped her

learn about perseverance, the magic of music and Beethoven. Soft illustrations and easy to read text will appeal to young readers who have also found, or are looking for that magic.

Kris - My Novelesque Life says

RATINGS: 4 STARS

??(I received an ARC from the EDELWEISS)

(Review Not on Blog)

I love the illustrations in this book and the story was sweet and informative. I recommend this book to both adults and children.

[Shai] Bibliophage says

Mr. Mergler, Beethoven, and Me is based from a true story which was written by David Gutnick and drawn by Canadian illustrator Mathilde Cinq-Mars. It is a charming story of a little girl who was lucky to be taught by Mr. Daniel Mergler, and how she still honors him as time goes by. I reckon that the author was a student by Mr. Mergler when he was young, and this children's story book could serve as both a memoir and a way of Gutnick to show his gratitude to his Maestro.

Ashley says

A lovely picture book about a young girl and her music teacher, accompanied by charming pencil illustrations.

KayKay says

Oh my gosh, such a wonderful little story. The illustrations and text are both done beautifully. Growing up playing classical music and I have had a great mentor, "Mr. Mergler, Beethoven, and Me" brings back my memories, the good and the terrible ones, as I read along. I oh so wish the story would encourage my toddler son to learn to appreciate playing piano when he is such a big fan of Beethoven already. Though a short, but definitely a powerful and moving gem. Thank you, Netgallery and Second Story Press for providing the e-gallery for preview.

Cait says

A great book, beautifully illustrated showing the importance of music and how it elevates everyday life.

Laura (Book Scrounger) says

Mr. Mergler, Beethoven, and Me is a sweet story about a girl and her father who have a chance meeting with Daniel Mergler, a respected piano teacher, near the end of his life. It's written in first person from the perspective of the girl (who is not named in the book), and she describes how she came to have piano lessons from Mr. Mergler.

Mr. Mergler has a bust of Beethoven on his piano, which has been there for decades. The girl thinks he looks angry, but over time, as she learns more and more about the technique and magic of music, she sees him in a more friendly light.

The illustrations are lovely, using gentle, subdued tones, and portraying the teaching of music as growth of plants.

After reading this story, I immediately wondered whether or not it was true. The end notes give a brief biography of Beethoven and Daniel Mergler, but told nothing about the girl or her parents -- but the story seems oddly specific to be fictional. This led me to Mr. Mergler's Gift, a short documentary film made in Canada, which identifies the girl in the story as Xin Ben, the daughter of Chinese immigrants. This book appears to be based on the documentary, and since it's a documentary, that answers my question as to whether this book is based on a true story.

I really enjoyed this wonderful picture of the power of music, and the tribute to the love and guidance that music teachers show to their students.

(Thanks to NetGalley for the review copy.)

frannie pan says

7 minutes, 18 pages. 1 tender story.

That's how this morning began and what it took me to .

I thought it would have been a short story for kids, something with nice pictures to skim through in no time but I soon realized I couldn't have been more wrong.

It is simple, with no pretensions but so unadulterated and quite extraordinary.

It's the story of a young Chinese-American girl who goes to the park with her dad and there they encounter a piano teacher, Mr. Mergler. He sees a music talent hidden within the child and decides to give her piano lessons.

It might be because I love music and have played piano for years. It might be because it's based on the true life of Daniel Mergler. It might also be because of the beautiful pastel illustrations, so clear and delicate. But before I had reached the end, I was already feeling tears running down my cheeks and my heart beating loudly in my chest and my ears.

It was a beautiful story, one I won't forget anytime soon.

* Thank you Netgally for giving me the chance to read this. * I might have to get this for me when it'll be published.
