



Granny Winkle Bear

BOOK w/CD

review

The Thrift Store Bears

by Bev Morse

From Manhattan Beach illustrator Pat Woolley's glorious drawings, expressive, sketchy and water-colored, to poet and author Olive Evans' witty and gay teddy bear odes, this handsome homage to teddy bear enthusiasts, collectors – and children on the way – is a charming see-and-read (and listen!) to cuddle close to your heart, and joyfully nestle amongst the shelves of your teddy bear remembrances past and present.

Jazz and classical musician, Thrift Store Bears' composer Jim Furnston's enchanting CD accompaniment to Evans' veddy Brit reading of her poetry is delightful and tempoed to each bear's poem. With rather sophisticated meter on the written page, Furnston's music further illustrates the bit of over-reach on paper.

Evans writes, "Thrift Store Bears recounts the adventures and friendships

shared by a group of orphaned thrift store bears now residing in an old two-storied house by the sea." There are 27 individualized personality romps, from 'Danny the Very Shy Bear' – "I'm frightened of the dark, dogs scare me when they bark. I wish I were a shark...! I've always been this way, excuse me, did you say, you'll play with me today?" to 'Happy H. Huggins', who understands us all – "Are you feeling unwanted and misunderstood? Are you feeling deep down in the dumps? Are there clouds in the sky that won't go away? Does your oatmeal have too many lumps?"

Evans, also a Manhattan Beach resident, offers her readers gentle positivism, life's lessons from the mouths of (teddy) babes, the used and leftover, perhaps 'common-place' – the thrift store salvage – saved and sage and savoring-worth for reading to, with and for children – or our selves! Life's lessons are so much easier to 'bear' when out of the mouths of, well, teddy bears.

"The CD is wonderful; the narration is perfect...illustrations are wonderful, colorful, well-detailed and exquisitely expressive...(bringing) each bear to life..." writes *Writer's Digest*. And, in our opinion? A family-values must for homes, school classrooms – and retirement residences – teddy bear lovers the world over!

www.teddytraveler.com or Teddy Traveler Co., PO Box 2332, 15th St., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. ER