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The Giant of Seville: A "Tall" Tale Based on a True Story

By Andreasen, Dan.

Abrams. 1 Cloth(s), 2007. hard. Book Condition: New. A tall tale in the truest sense, this charming story for readers up to 8 is based on real-life circus performer Martin Van Buren Bates. Sleepy little Seville, Ohio, was a place that was so quiet, "you could hear the corn grow." In fact it was a bit too quiet. So when Martin stepped off of the train and stood up to his full 7-foot, 11 1/2-inch height, declaring that he was looking for a place for himself and his equally tall wife Anna to retire, folks in the town were determined to make him feel welcome. Fine crosshatched drawings in muted colors lend an old-time feel to the story, and the book includes an author's note and a photo of the real Martin and Anna. "The storytelling style and appealing subject matter make this book an excellent choice for reading aloud. The book is well designed, with thick, creamy paper, a distinctive circus font for the title and headings, nice use of white space, and a suitably tall format. Altogether, it's a standout package." School Library Journal (starred review) 32.



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