

***The Treasure Thief* - Beatrice Rodriguez**

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Rooster, Bear and Rabbit set sail to return home after visiting their friends. A storm at sea swamps their little boat and washes them onto a remote beach. They enter a cave that contains the skeleton of a prehistoric creature.

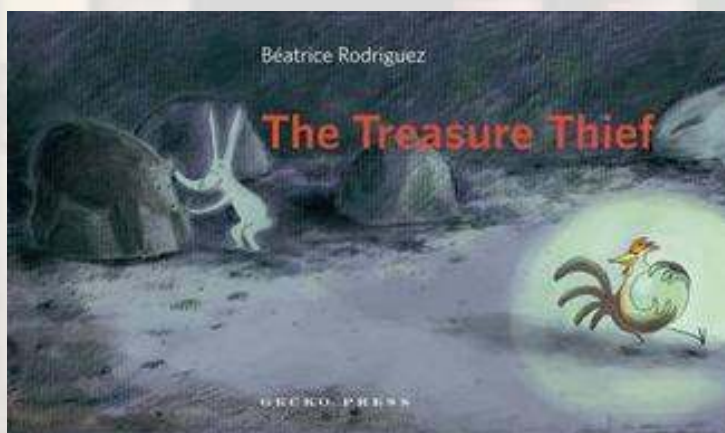
Rooster is the first to see a round, glowing object on the floor of the cave. He snatches up the orb and flees into the dark night. Rabbit and Bear chase after him through caves, fields of luminous toadstools, and oceans infested with fierce fish.

This wordless picture book offers adventure and non-stop action. The dusky illustrations are lit by bright glow-worms and shining toadstools. Background detail is other-worldly and mysterious.

Author and illustrator Beatrice Rodriguez explores the desire to possess glittering objects. Inevitably, Rooster drops the gleaming orb and it breaks. The real treasure becomes apparent when Rooster's greed is superseded by his better nature. Several themes for discussion are woven into the visual storyline.

Another quality hardback book from New Zealand publishers, Gecko Press, who translate and publish award-winning books from around the world.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett.



Promoting the enjoyment of children's literature.