



***The Best Singer in the World* - Ulf Nilsson illustrated by Eva Eriksson**

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The six-year-old hero loves singing at home to his little brother who thinks he's the best singer in world. But stage fright sets in when his teacher expects him to sing alone in front of a crowd of people.

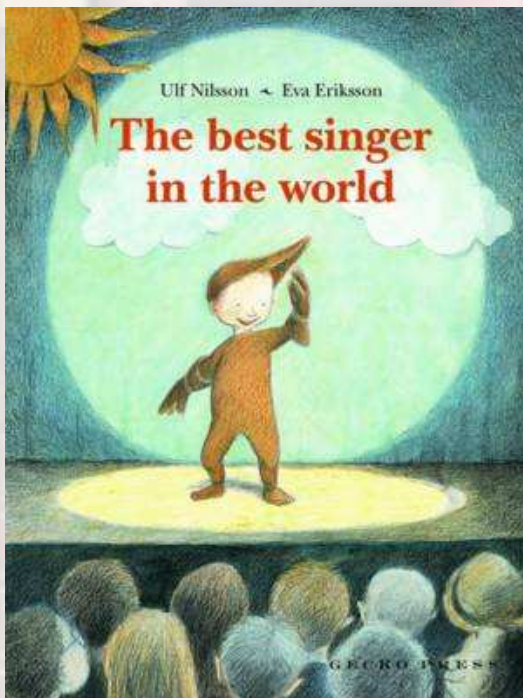
As the dreaded school concert approaches, the young boy's fears grow to enormous proportions. At the dress rehearsal, the spotlight blinds him and he stands on the stage in his mole suit, tongue-tied and forlorn. Children shouldn't be subjected to such trauma!

He endures a sleepless night followed by a day of trepidation. He's convinced he will disgrace his family at the concert. His anxiety rises as the show begins and his moment of shame seems inevitable.

Fortunately, he finds strength from an unexpected source. The ending is sheer delight – and a great relief for readers who hope the young boy will overcome his fears. Award-winning illustrator, Eva Eriksson, vividly captures the behaviour and emotions of the brothers and the fledgling actors. Her expressive hero tugs at the heart strings. Readers empathise with his insecurity through the visual contrast of blasé adults and confident classmates.

A warm-hearted story with charming illustrations. Another fine publication from New Zealand publishers, Gecko Press.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett



Promoting the enjoyment of children's literature.