



The Man from the Land of Fandango - Margaret Mahy (author) and Polly Dunbar (illustrator)

Published by Walker Books RRP \$29.99

Excitement bursts from every page as author and illustrator work their magic. Mahy's exuberant rhyme is well-matched by Dunbar's inspired illustrations. Flowing colours swirl around the curving lines of text and take readers on a wonderful journey with the man from Fandango.

Two smiling children are central to the visual story and take part in all the fun. The playful verse imparts a carnival atmosphere:

*Oh, whenever they dance in Fandango,
The bears and the bison join in,
And baboons on bassoons make a musical sound,
And the kangaroos come with a hop and a bound,
And the dinosaurs join in the din.*

Unusual animals (including a bison in red high heels), music, dancing, surprises, party food and happy faces, all combine to make a fantastic celebration. A group of children would enjoy performing the story and bringing Mahy magic to life in their own way.

Published in hard-back with a slip-cover, this well-produced picture book will withstand many storytime readings.

Reviewed by children's book author
Jean Bennett

