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***Finding Monkey Moon* by Elizabeth Pulford illustrated by Kate Wilkinson**

Publisher: Walker Books

RRP \$27.99

Many parents have experienced the inconsolable child who has lost a much-loved toy and, until it's found, there's no sleep for anyone in the household.

The author explores this scenario from the perspective of a father and his son, Michael. Pulford's descriptive writing enhances the beauty of the night as the pair extend their search outdoors:

"...Together they walked down the quiet street,
their breath fluttering like moths in the night air..."

"... 'Monkey Moon!'
His cry carried through the darkness
and fell into the folds of quiet..."

At first, the young boy calls out reassuringly to his lost companion, confident they will find him. Although as the pair walk along, the child's certainty falters.

Luminous, acrylic colours add depth to the night-time scenes. As dark descends the bright red of the boy's jacket deepens to tawny shades, giving warmth to the illustrations. Torch light illuminates the deserted park where they search. The father's protective gestures demonstrate the close bond between parent and child.

The perfect ending has a subtle repeat of the boy reflecting the actions of his father. This beautiful hardback publication takes readers on a memorable journey.

Author's website:

www.elizabethpulford.co.nz

**Reviewed by children's book author
Jean Bennett**

