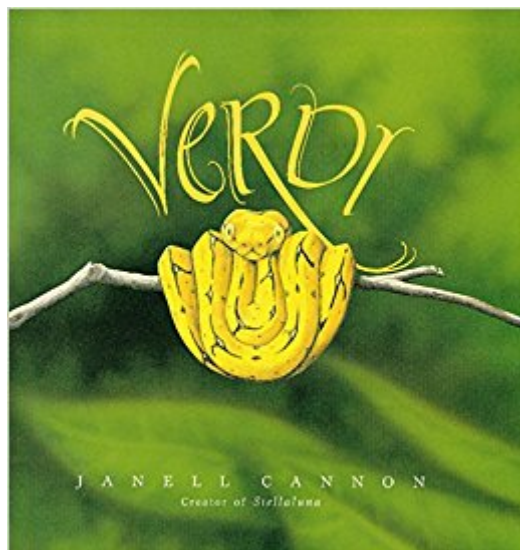


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Verdi



Synopsis

Young Verdi doesn't want to grow up big and green. He likes his bright yellow skin and sporty stripes. Besides, all the green snakes he meets are lazy, boring, and rude. When Verdi finds a pale green stripe stretching along his whole body, he tries every trick he can think of to get rid of it--and ends up in a heap of trouble. Despite his efforts, Verdi turns green, but to his delight, he discovers that being green doesn't mean he has to stop being himself. Cannon is on a roll, her gift for creating memorable characters and scenes on glorious display in this tale of a feisty python hatchling.

—Publishers Weekly

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD620L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1st edition (April 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152010289

ISBN-13: 978-0152010287

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 101 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #26,518 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Reptiles & Amphibians #1756 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Verdi is a proud python, flourishing in the flower of his youth. He loves to swiftly slither around the forest, brandishing his bright yellow skin, and can't fathom why anyone would want to be sleepy and green like the adult snakes he knows. Verdi insists, as so many youngsters do, "I will never be lazy, boring or green!" Despite his resolve to stay young, one day he notices a patch of green spreading down the length of his body. Verdi does everything he can think of to erase this first sign of the inevitable tide of age. But in his frenzy of youthful, Icarus-like bravado, he nearly kills himself. Finally, Verdi learns that even though he can't stop the aging process, green skin won't keep him from being a fun-loving, young-at-heart, figure-eight-forming snake. Janell Cannon's illustrations are exquisite. As in her award-winning *Stellaluna*, not only are the animal drawings painstakingly

accurate, they are also awash with movement and beauty. The countless shades of greeny-yellow and yellowy-green have the effect of a cool eye compress for the reader--calming, inviting, and enticing readers to reach into the lush environment of the pages. Verdi's lesson is never didactic, always compelling, and pleasantly surprising. (Ages 4 and older)

Grade 1-3?Verdi, a python hatchling, is born a splendid, vibrant yellow with zig-zagging stripes and is determined not to turn green, as all his folk eventually do. His jungle-green elders seem boring and lazy to Verdi, who loves flinging himself from the treetops. He gets himself out of one scrape and into another, until a bad injury sobers him. He comes to enjoy the camouflaging green that eventually creeps over him, but he's still "Verdi"?maybe a little more sedate, but never dull.

Cannon's layout and illustrations are similar to those in her popular *Stellaluna* (Harcourt, 1993), with stunningly realistic and vibrant pictures in acrylic and pencil that feature bright greens and yellows. Each full-page, color illustration faces a white page with text and a black-and-white spot drawing and border. Some double-page spreads provide breaks in the generally well-paced story. Verdi is an easy-to-like character, and the pictures convey his exuberance and carry the story where the text occasionally falters. A page of "Snake Notes" at the end provides background information. A great read-aloud or read-alone.?Nina Lindsay, Vista School, Albany, CACopyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This is one of my favorite stories. I enjoy Verdi's spunk in not wanting to grow up and fully enjoying his youth, as well as his maturing into a fun loving adult snake. The wonderful descriptive words paint clear pictures in the reader's/listener's mind. It is also beautifully illustrated, with pictures that match the main idea of the text. I use this book with students of all ages to check their listening or reading comprehension, by having them describe their picture of what they read or was read to them and then checking it against the illustration. It's been a wonderful resource. I adore this book!

What a beautiful book! It has really propelled my daughter's love of snakes. I like the facts on the last two pages too!

Great book about snakes and coming-of-age. Slowing down and listening and learning, we watch this cute yellow Python grow up but still retain his sense of adventure and youth. My 3 year old was crazy over it (I wish they had a toy yellow Python somewhere to buy!) and also entertained my 5 and 9 year old niece and nephew. Cute snake facts at the end. I first read it to them as a library

book and had to buy it to keep here at home. Wonderful for snake lovers and book lovers in general!

In the heat of the tropics, several small eggs hatch and tiny 8-inch snakes slither out, swiftly making their way out to the forest to explore and learn. One of them dilly-dallies, mesmerized by his colorful body and confused by his mother's encouraging words to "grow up big and green - as green as the trees' leaves." The Peter Pan of reptiles, "Verdi" is the charming story of a little snake who refuses to grow up. Once a featured title on the popular children's program "Reading Rainbow", "Verdi" begins by introducing the reader to a just-hatched green tree python who after seeing how crotchety and lazy his elders are decides not to become like them, which means fighting off his inevitable maturation. Born with an eye-catching pattern of black markings littering his canary yellow scales, Verdi is a spry snake that flings himself about the trees, a little too adventurous for his own good. While fretting over the color change in his scales and slithering about, Verdi gets himself into a heap of trouble and is rescued by the adults. As he recovers from an incapacitating injury, he learns some interesting things about his peers and discovers that getting older isn't such a bad thing after all, so long as you remain young at heart. Cannon's story slyly schools us on *morelia viridis* while dazzling us with her beautiful illustrations done in acrylic paint and Prismacolor pencils (and I can vouch for that brand, as I own a large set of them - they are EXCELLENT). Her excellence at rendering the anatomy of her star reptile comes from thorough, hands-on research with the help of Clay Garrett, a herpetologist at the Dallas Zoo and Robert Brock of the San Diego Zoo. At the back of the book are some source notes on snakes which include specific facts about the green tree python; these details will be of particular interest to children and adults who are animal and/or biology enthusiasts. Bottom line: Fans of "Stellaluna" will love this work more so for Cannon's stunning vignettes, the story taking a bit of a backseat. Nonetheless, it is a frivolous and fun tale while being educational at the same time and Cannon's gorgeous depictions of wildlife will transport you to another world.

I went in for my yearly physical, and was telling my doctor that I was annoyed that could no longer exercise the way I could when I was younger. She told me to get this book and read it. Even though it is a children's book, it has a great message for us aging Baby Boomers. I bought it, read it, and donated it back to her so she could show it to other patients like me who still feel like they can swing the world by its tail, but now only have the where with all to twirl a couple of states. This book is written by the same author who wrote *Stella Luna*, so the illustrations are lovely as well.

One of my favorite children's books!

I love this book about getting old but keeping your youthful spirit. It has the great message of learning from your life experience as well as seeing yourself as capable no matter how much time goes by. I give this book as a filler birthday gift item for ages 40 and above. It is a beautiful theme of growing old but staying young. This is a reminder that we have elements that remain constant throughout our lives and make us uniquely ourselves.

My 7 1/2 yr old 2nd grade daughter & I read *Stellaluna* off her summer reading list. I had heard of/seen this book around, but it had never grabbed me. I was quite surprised at the fabulous illustrations, the story that draws you in, & the author's ability to make a bat lovable. I was eager to read *Verdi*, expecting the same experience. I thought the story was OK & the illustrations beautiful, but the story itself lacked depth to me. The young whippersnapper & wise old sage qualities hit me as being more relevant to an adult reader. Children can not adequately appreciate the age contrast, & how quickly time passes, & how we all become more boring & old than our young minds thought we would. Curiously, my daughter liked *Verdi* as well, if not better than *Stellaluna*. To each his own - read & see what you think.

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