



## Heaven Eyes. David Almond

*By David Almond*

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## Heaven Eyes. David Almond By David Almond Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

British author David Almond is on a roll. His first book for young readers, *Skellig*, won a prestigious 2000 Michael L. Printz Honor award, and his second, *Kit's Wilderness*, won the Printz outright in 2001. Now comes a third, *Heaven Eyes*, which features a series of haunting, sepia-toned landscapes and a young narrator (an orphan) named Erin Law.

One night, Erin and her friends January Carr and Mouse Gullane flee from the orphanage, sailing down the moonlit river on a makeshift raft. As they are dragged into the mighty current, January's eyes are wild with joy. "Freedom," he whispered. "Freedom, Erin!" Before they know it, however, the three adventurers run aground in sticky, oily, stinking, quicksand-like mud--the Black Middens. There they are greeted by a moon-eyed, diaphanous girl named Heaven Eyes, who speaks strangely and insists they are her long-lost sister and brothers, albeit "all filthy as filthy."

She leads them back to her bizarre, broken world of abandoned printing works and warehouses full of tinned food and chocolates. Her sole companion is Grampa, who is straggly haired and just plain scary. Cocking a wary eye at the three visitors, he scribbles in his book: "Mebbe they're ghosts. Mebbe they're devils sent from hell or angels sent from heaven." Despite Grampa's frightening demeanor, however, Erin is completely taken by the guileless Heaven Eyes and the idea of being her "bestest friend." The sweet, simple Mouse soon relishes his role as Grampa's Little Helper, digging treasures out of the inky mud night after night. January, however, bitterly resents his o'er-hasty loss of freedom, sacrificed to a crazy world of "bloody freaks." Almond's choreography is masterful, and as the four children dance about each other we learn what, at the core, makes each of their young hearts beat faster.

As always, Almond shows us a world where the joy and terror of being alive coexist. What is real, what is imagined, what is remembered, and what is dreamed, all fuse together--and however dark his tales, he manages to tell stories infused with both hope and persistent, persuasive love. (Ages 10 and older) --*Karin Snelson*

### From Publishers Weekly

Readers spellbound by the intriguing characters and surrealistic flavor of Almond's previous works will be eager to dive into the murky waters of this third novel, set in a riverside orphanage. Erin Law, one of the "damaged" orphan children residing at Whitegates, eloquently recounts her earliest happy memories of her mother and the way the woman's voice and touch have remained with her. One day, Erin sets out on a remarkable adventure-cum-rescue mission, with fellow orphan friends January and Mouse on a homemade raft. ("Some people will tell you that none of these things happened. They'll say they were just a dream that the three of us shared.") Their vessel gets stuck in the mire on the Black Middens, a muddy sinkhole of a place every bit as haunting and surreal as the hideout in *Skellig* or the abandoned mines of *Kit's Wilderness*. The children discover two strangers who live alongside the Middens in a dilapidated settlement: Heaven Eyes, a ghostlike girl with webbed hands (so named because "her lovely eyes... saw through all the trouble in the world to the heaven that lies beneath"), and "Grampa," her ancient caretaker. Here the children slowly unravel mysteries about the crumbling town, its muddy banks holding many treasures and the tragic history of Heaven Eyes. Possessing a rare understanding of human frailties, impulses, desires and fears, the author boldly explores the gray area between reality and imagination, and the need to construct one's own legends in order to survive. His tantalizing settings and poetic narrative have a lingering effect, much like a prophetic dream. Ages 9-12.

From School Library Journal

Gr 6-9-Another powerful, lyrical, and enchanting story from the author of *Skellig* (1999) and *Kit's Wilderness* (2000, both Delacorte). Orphan Erin Law and two friends, all considered damaged children, run away from their orphanage on a homemade raft down the Ouseburn River. They land on the Black Middens, a mud bank that is not actually far from where they began, yet it is a completely different world. Here they meet Heaven Eyes, a young girl with webbed toes and fingers, and a caretaker she calls Grandpa. They live in an old abandoned printing office, eat candy stored in an ancient warehouse, and dig in the black mud for treasures. Heaven Eyes is able to see through all the darkness, grief, and trouble in the world to the joy that lies beneath. When Grandpa dies, the three visitors discover her true identity and take her back to the orphanage with them. The book, however, is so much more than this plot outline. Reality blends with imagination; magical possibilities abound. Heaven Eyes, with her webbed digits and archaic speech, seems at times primordial, at other times ethereal. The ambiguous and surreal setting and the lyricism of the metaphor-laden prose make this a compelling and original novel. Facts, dreams, memories, and imagination blend to create larger truths. Almond returns to themes touched on in his previous novels: the fragility of life and the redemptive power of love; the meaning of home, loss, death, memory, and friendship. An awe-inspiring, multilayered novel from a master imagist.-Connie Tyrrell Burns, Mahoney Middle School, South Portland, ME

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Juan McCain:**

Spent a free time to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book might be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the reserve untitled *Heaven Eyes*. David Almond can be excellent book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

#### **Maria Lacher:**

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book especially book entitled *Heaven Eyes*. David Almond your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a publication then become one application form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get just before. The *Heaven Eyes*. David Almond giving you yet another experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful information for your better life in this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

**Steven Peterson:**

The book untitled Heaven Eyes. David Almond contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains the girl idea with easy technique. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was written by famous author. The author will take you in the new period of time of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice go through.

**Charles Gray:**

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