



Tales From Outer Suburbia

By Shaun Tan



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An exchange student who's really an alien, a secret room that becomes the perfect place for a quick escape, a typical tale of grandfatherly exaggeration that is actually even more bizarre than he says... These are the odd details of everyday life that grow and take on an incredible life of their own in tales and illustrations that Shaun Tan's many fans will love.



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Tales From Outer Suburbia By Shaun Tan Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grade 4 Up—For those who loved Tan's surreal and evocative *The Arrival* (Scholastic, 2007), the Australian author follows up with a brilliant collection of illustrated vignettes. Fifteen short texts, each accompanied by Tan's signature black-and-white and full-color artwork, take the mundane world and transform it into a place of magical wonders. In the opening tale, a water buffalo sits in an abandoned suburban lot, offering silent but wise direction to those youngsters who are patient enough to follow his guidance. In "Eric," the title character (a tiny, leaflike creature) visits a family as a foreign exchange student and fascinates them with his sense of wonder. His parting gift to the family is sure to warm even the coldest heart. Other stories describe the fate of unread poetry, the presence of silent stick figures who roam the suburbs, or an expedition to the edge of a map. In spirit, these stories are something akin to the wit and wisdom of Shel Silverstein. The surrealist art of Rene Magritte also comes to mind, but perhaps Chris Van Allsburg's beloved *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick* (Houghton, 1984) comes closest as a comparable work. While somewhat hard to place due to the unusual nature of the piece, this book is a small treasure, or, rather, a collection of treasures.—*Douglas P. Davey, Halton Hills Public Library, Ontario, Canada*
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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review After teaching the graphic format a thing or two about its own potential for elegance with *The Arrival* (2007), Tan follows up with this array of 15 extraordinary illustrated tales. But here is an achievement in diametric opposition to his silent masterpiece, as Tan combines spare words and weirdly dazzling images—in styles ranging from painting to doodles to collage—to create a unity that holds complexities of emotion seldom found in even the most mature works. The story of a water buffalo who sits in a vacant lot mysteriously pointing children “in the right direction” is whimsical but also ominous. The centerpiece, “Grandpa’s Story,” recalling a ceremonial marriage journey and the unnameable perils faced therein, captures a tone of aching melancholy and longing, but also, ultimately, a sense of deep, deep happiness. And the eerie “Stick Figures” is both a poignant and rather disturbing narrative that plays out in the washed-out daylight of suburban streets where curious, tortured creatures wait at the ends of pathways and behind bus stops. The thoughtful and engaged reader will take from these stories an experience as deep and profound as with anything he or she has ever read. Grades 7-12. --Jesse Karp

Review

Praise for *Tales from Outer Suburbia*

A *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book

A *Publishers Weekly* Best Book

"You almost **can't stop yourself from saying 'Wow...'** Tan's work overflows with human warmth and childlike wonder." -- *New York Times Book Review*

"*Tales from Outer Suburbia* is not quite like anything else, and that's perhaps the best thing of all about it, opening up reading as a sort of strong, wild and individual activity." -- *Chicago Tribune*

* "The thoughtful and engaged reader will take from these stories an experience as deep and profound as with anything he has ever read." -- *Booklist*, starred review

* "Graphic-novel and text enthusiasts alike will be drawn to this **breathhtaking combination of words and images.**" -- *Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

Praise for *The Arrival*

A *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book
Book Sense Book of the Year -- Honor Book
World Fantasy Award -- Best Artist
An ALA Top Ten Great Graphic Novel for Teens
A *Horn Book* Fanfare Best Book
A *Publishers Weekly* Best Book
New York Magazine's Top Comic Book
A *School Library Journal* Best Book

"Mesmerizing... Such **visual eloquence** can only motivate readers to seek out any future graphic novels from Shaun Tan, regardless of where they might be shelved." -- *New York Times Book Review*

"Astonishing." -- *The Washington Post*

"A wordless **tour de force.**" -- *Time Out New York Kids*

* "A silent, fantastical masterpiece... Filled with both subtlety and grandeur, the book is a unique work that not only fulfills but also expands the potential of its form." -- *Booklist*, starred review

* "An unashamed paean to the immigrant's spirit, tenacity and guts, **perfectly crafted** for maximum effect." -- *Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

* "Few will remain unaffected by this **timeless stunner.**" -- *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Numbers Harless:

Hey guys, do you desires to finds a new book to study? May be the book with the title Tales From Outer Suburbia suitable to you? Typically the book was written by popular writer in this era. Often the book untitled Tales From Outer Suburbiais the main one of several books which everyone read now. This specific book was inspired many people in the world. When you read this guide you will enter the new dimensions that you ever know just before. The author explained their plan in the simple way, and so all of people can easily to comprehend the core of this reserve. This book will give you a large amount of information about this world now. To help you see the represented of the world in this particular book.

Bruce Jackson:

The book untitled Tales From Outer Suburbia contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains your ex idea with easy means. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do not necessarily worry,

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Elizabeth Daugherty:

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Marian Carson:

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