



# The Conductor

*Laëtitia Devernay*

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## **The Conductor** Laëtitia Devernay

Pairing two seemingly disparate elements—an orchestra conductor and a grove of trees—award-winning artist Laetitia Devernay herself orchestrates a visual magnum opus. Her spare yet intricate illustrations truly appear to take flight before our eyes, and her wordless narrative nearly roars with sound as the conductor prompts the leaves to rustle, then whirl, then swirl to unexpected life with each turn of the page. It is a celebration of creativity, imagination, storytelling, and the renewing power of nature that will entrance readers of every age.

## **The Conductor Details**

Date : Published September 28th 2011 by Chronicle Books (first published 2010)

ISBN : 9781452104911

Author : Laëtitia Devernay

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## From Reader Review The Conductor for online ebook

### Marsha says

In a wordless tale of transformation, the illustrator provides a wondrous tale of two odd juxtapositions: a musical conductor and a stand of silent trees. There is no music but there is the rapture of watching one form of life altered into something completely different.

I could almost hear the rustle of trees turned into the feathered flutterings of birds...and I found myself smiling at the sight of the conductor leaving behind an indelible mark of himself. Simple yet elegant, brilliant yet shown in plain colors of black, green and pale yellow, The Conductor is an art piece cleverly disguised as a children's book.

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### Kim says

Rarely does a picture book connect with me so intensely, but this one is just breathtaking. Perhaps it's the art, earth-connection, and musical thread - who knows. Let's just say that after I read it, I was compelled to buy a copy for my own personal library.

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### Tasha says

This wordless picture book is tall and narrow, just like the trees featured within. A man enters a forest of trees that are shaped like lollipops with long trunks and round tops. He climbs to the very top of one tree and raises his hands. Suddenly, birds start to appear, formed from the leaves of the trees. They fly off leaving holes in the tree leaves shaped like them. The leaf patterns are on their wings and they fly above the conductor in a variety of formations. Until eventually they are gone, and all that are left are the blank trees. The man climbs down and plants a seed that quickly grows into a tree. As he is planting, the birds return to the trees, covering them once again in leaves. The man leaves the forest just as he has found it, but with one more small tree. It's a beautiful look at the environment and the impact humans can have if they choose.

Read the rest of my review on my blog, [Waking Brain Cells](#).

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### Holly Mueller says

I picked this one up at the book sale at the Dublin Lit Conference. Its unique design was irresistible! I loved the magical tale of a conductor climbing the tallest tree and conducting an orchestra of leaves that take flight. Beautiful illustrations.

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### Kristina Jean Lareau says

This extra tall, and extra long, wordless picturebook is a travel through music with trees into birds. You can

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almost hear the deep tones on the verso and the high notes of the birds flying in on the recto. This book could make for a more interesting study if there was an actual musical accompaniment.

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### **Christiane says**

I don't know what kids will make of this wordless book about a conductor who "conducts" a forest of leaves/birds, but I really loved it! Even the shape of the book is very appealing, tall and narrow like a tree.

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### **Michael Duffey says**

This is an interesting book. There are no words only pictures of a conductor, who shows the reader a play of leaves turning into birds and then back again. The age level intended is PreK-2. This book could be tied into a Visual Arts or Music curriculum. Personally, I like flipping through the pictures of the book because they were somewhat abstract but fun to look at. If I were to present this to a class, I would do so while playing classical music. That way the students would be able to follow along with the music and use their imaginations.

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### **Shelli says**

Wordless picture book artistic fun! When I "read" this book to my daughter I made up a silly story to go with each page. Beautiful illustrations that can inspire your inner artist to pick up a pen and get creating.

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### **Erin says**

I quite loved this book. The artwork and story were simple and beautiful - a conductor brings the trees around him soaring to life with his imaginative conducting. After putting it down, I am still imagining the sounds that would come from this book. I would LOVE to see someone animate this someday. It would be on the Oscar Shorts list for sure!

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### **Christine Turner says**

Pairing two seemingly disparate elements an orchestra conductor and a grove of trees award-winning artist Laetitia Devernay herself orchestrates a visual magnum opus. Her spare, yet intricate, illustrations truly appear to take flight before our eyes and her wordless narrative nearly roars with sound as the conductor prompts the leaves to rustle, then whirl, then swirl to unexpected life with each turn of the page. It is a celebration of creativity, imagination, storytelling, and the renewing power of nature that will entrance readers of every age.

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### **Drew Graham says**

There's this conductor and he has this baton and occasionally he waves it and the leaves turn to birds and fly away.

I saw this sitting in the board books at the library and thought it looked like one of those artsy children's books that everyone ends up loving, child or otherwise. Well... I didn't love it. There wasn't much of a story (there's nothing really wrong with a wordless book, this one just didn't have much to even narrate), there was a lot of repetition (there's likewise nothing really wrong with repetition in a children's book, but this seemed like some of the pages were actually cut-and-paste), and I thought the monochromatic color scheme was kind of tedious (again, there's nothing really wrong with monochromatic colors, but the choices in this seemed bland and dated). Music and art in one, I thought, this must be the picture book for me! Not so much. I'm sure the artist thought they were being profound and whatever, but it didn't resonate with me.

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### **Jon(athan) Nakapalau says**

Very original book about what can best be described as a creative force that conducts elements of nature into a unified force.

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### **Mary Beth Williams says**

This story is told without words. It is the tale of the conductor who plants, inspires, creates and conducts - all told through simple elegant illustrations. In many ways, this is the work of the leader - to conduct an alignment and then conduct it again and again. This is a thin but tall book that is big in its idea and one I gave as a gift to one who has inspired me.

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### **Amy Adams says**

This is a beautiful wordless story. It allows for some excellent imaginative storytelling and play. The illustrations are full of life. I love the details in each illustration. This would be great for anyone!

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### **Karen A. says**

MC. Escher meets Edward Gorey plus happiness. I think this is a lovely quiet book and will give all ages pause to ponder...in a good way. Beautiful illustrations.

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