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The Red Balloon (Oberon Book)

Albert Lamorisse

THE RED BALLOON

Adapted for the stage by
Anthony Clark



Synopsis

Anthony Clark's award-winning adaptation of Albert Lamorisse's Fifties French film, *The Red Balloon*, follows the adventures of a lonely Parisian boy and a stray balloon which befriends him. It enjoyed a successful run at the National Theatre in 1996.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For anyone, who, like myself, went to see *The Red Balloon* at the cinema as a child in 1957, this beautifully designed and superbly produced book is a perfect souvenir of this multi-award winning Technicolor short film that remains as totally enchanting today as it was fifty years ago, when I was entranced by it as a ten year old boy. When a film is in production, very many still photographs are taken during the shoot for use as publicity material later on. This book contains no less than 39 black and white location stills and seven in full colour, or nine if you count the front and back covers, making a total of 48 photographs as beautifully crisp and clear today as they were when they were first taken, a lifetime ago, way back in 1956. Accompanying the photographs is the storyline of the film, told page by page and still by still and this is beautifully written. *The Red Balloon*, directed by Albert Lamorisse, running only 35 minutes, without dialogue and telling its story through pictures,

sound and music, tells the fable of a lonely little six year old Parisian boy, Pascal (played by the director's young son, Pascal Lamorisse), who befriends an equally lonely helium filled red balloon with a life of its own, which becomes his constant companion, following him everywhere, waiting outside school for him and even outside his bedroom. The two become devoted to one another and share many adventures together. For Pascal, the red balloon becomes the friend that he's always yearned for. At the end, a group of school bullies, jealous of the happiness that Pascal and the balloon have found together, waylay the little boy and throw stones and fire catapults at the balloon, puncturing it.

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