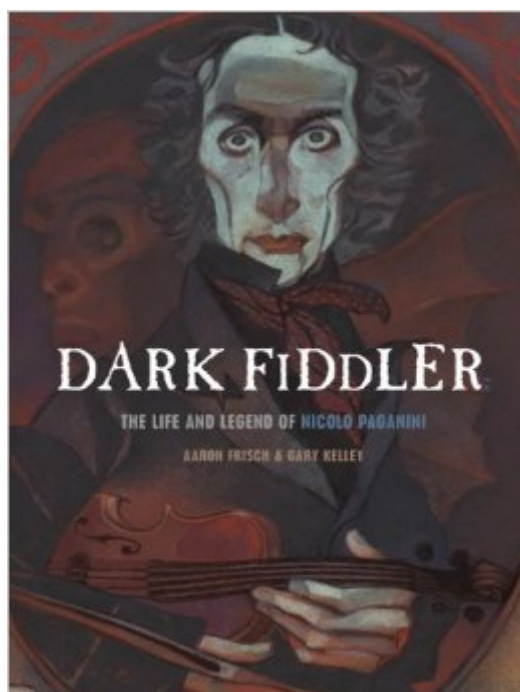


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# Dark Fiddler (Creative Editions)



## Synopsis

An old gravedigger recites the story of Nicolo Paganini, the 18th-century Italian violinist whose extraordinary skills and eerie stage presence made him a musical legend.

## Book Information

Series: Creative Editions

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Creative Editions (August 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 156846200X

ISBN-13: 978-1568462004

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.5 x 12.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #487,860 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #112 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical #1031 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Animals > Bears

Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

## Customer Reviews

The picture book biographer is often a limited soul. If you are churning out biography after biography for a large company then I'm sure the job must feel fairly rote. You tally up the facts, place them in some kind of semblance of order, slap in a timeline, and you are good to go. Personally, I am more interested in the people who walk into the game without any previous experience and end up producing something wild and wacky and doggone weird. Wild, wacky, and weird would actually describe the biography, "Dark Fiddler: The Life and Legend of Nicolo Paganini," to a tee. Pay attention to that subtitle there. "Legend" it says, and certainly author Aaron Frisch is unafraid of calling upon rumor, hearsay, and conjecture to weave a fascinating biography of a man suspected of being in league with the devil himself. The result is an engrossing read, but a difficult product, particularly when you consider its actual purpose. I tend to prefer creative rather than utilitarian sensibilities, but there will undoubtedly be a couple people who enjoy this book while simultaneously scratching their heads over it. A difficult beauty, to say the least. As with any piece, we begin with a Prelude. Frisch writes, "it is hardly surprising that extraordinary musical ability in mere mortals has long been explained by way of heavenly blessing or, more frequently, dark pacts." So it is that we

hear the tale of Nicolo Paganini through the words of a gravedigger telling a tale to his assistant. Born near All Hallows' Eve, Paganini's birth was foretold by an angel and he died only to return to life when he was four. A sickly child he was taught the violin and it became part of him.

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