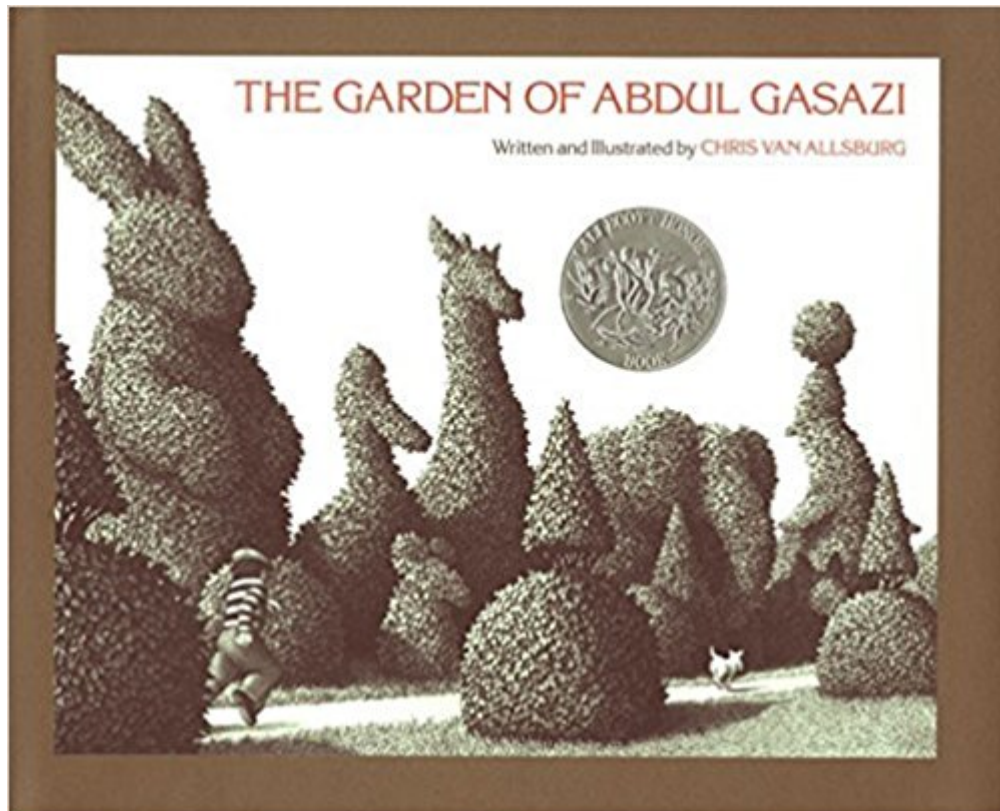




The book was found

# The Garden Of Abdul Gasazi



## Synopsis

Sometimes that very thin line between illusion and reality is not as clearly defined as we would like it to be. It certainly wasn't the day that Alan Mitz stumbled into the garden of Abdul Gasazi. For in this bizarre and eerie place -- where strange topiary trees loomed -- the evil visage of Gasazi casts its shadow. And even after Alan escaped, the spell of Gasazi still seemed to penetrate into his everyday world. In this extraordinary, unusual, and unique picture book, Chris Van Allsburg explores both the real and surreal worlds with incredible deftness. In doing so, he has created exquisite and beautiful images that will continue to haunt readers long after they have left the enchanted garden of Abdul Gasazi.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 580L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Library Binding edition (October 10, 1979)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 039527804X

ISBN-13: 978-0395278048

Product Dimensions: 11.8 x 0.4 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 52 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #60,110 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Ducks & Other Waterfowl #408 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs #791 in Books > Children's Books > Classics

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

"This is without question one of the best -- and most original -- picture books in years." The New York Times

Chris Van Allsburg is the winner of two Caldecott Medals, for *Jumanji* and *The Polar Express*, as well as the recipient of a Caldecott Honor Book for *The Garden of Abdul Gasazi*. The author and illustrator of numerous picture books for children, he has also been awarded the Regina Medal for lifetime achievement in children's literature. In 1982, *Jumanji* was nominated for a National Book

Award and in 1996, it was made into a popular feature film. Chris Van Allsburg is a former instructor at the Rhode Island School of Design. Visit him at [chrisvanallsburg.com](http://chrisvanallsburg.com).

Chris Van Allsburg wrote and illustrated many of my favorite picture books as a child, so when I had my own baby I ordered a few of my favorites. His illustrations are hypnotic and mysterious and that's what drew them to me as a kid who loved mysteries and "scary" stories. This story tells a great tale of a magician who turns a boy's dog into a bird (or does he?). This book still seems like a timeless classic so I would highly recommend it for any young child's (or whimsical adult's) library.

This was the first Chris Van Allsburg book we discovered, so many years ago that our kids now have nearly-grown children of their own. We love to share it with our friends. Van Allsburg's black and white illustrations are richly drawn and this story, like so many of his others, is macabre without being too frightening for young children. It involves a little boy, a dog and a magician, who may (or may not) have the ability to do transformative tricks. Once we read this one we were hooked. We've sought out Van Allsburg books ever since and we've never been disappointed. He's willing to take risks with his illustrations. His pencil work is terrific, but that doesn't stop him from trying pen-and-ink in "Two Bad Ants," or what's probably gouache in "Polar Express." Enjoy, savor and hope for more books to come.

What a terrific book! The illustrations are the best! They are simply done in graphite (??), but the black and white format shows the author/illustrator's mastery of the medium and his great talent in drawing. It is a book I would recommend for art students because of the visuals and a very entertaining story for children. It also ends with a little twist that can offer the adult and child an opportunity to discuss the book and the child's understanding of the tale.

good deal

Absolutely charming story. The illustrations are magical in and of themselves. This story is ostensibly about a boy who is charged with taking care of a neighbor's dog. However, the story takes some clever turns and winds up showing us that perhaps, just perhaps, magic does indeed exist. Wonderful to spark the imagination of young children. Written simply but with direct and impactful language. A recommendation for anyone's library; child or adult.

I am a Chris Van Allsburg fan, have been since my now in their 20's kids were infants. The Garden of Abdul Gasazi might be my favorite. The pencil drawings are magnificent, so richly textured, subtle and powerful. The tale itself mesmerized my children; you always step into a realistic-sounding fantasy before you know you've crossed that threshold. A joy for the adult reading to the child, as well as for the child who enters this world. Following the dog... 'nuf sed. If you appreciate great art in children's books, combined with masterful storytelling, check out Van Allsburg's work. This black and white venture rates 5 stars.

I am a children's magician who bought this book after seeing it on Reading Rainbow. I buy a book for every one of my library shows, and after reading it to the children as part of the show (with the help of my trusty side kick, a sheep dog puppet), we donate the book to the library. This book featured the three most important things relating to the show I was performing at the time : A dog, and child, and a mysterious old retired magician. Chirs Van Allsburg writes such incredible stuff, but this was a real find. Th kids loved it, the librarian loved, it, and it now has a new home at the Golden Gate Library in Naples, FL ! HIGHLY recommended....

Drawings are wonderous and the story grows on you. Though subtle, read to my 3-year-old grandson a couple of times and he is intrigued.

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