

Borreguita and the Coyote:



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From Publishers Weekly The growing interest in multicultural themes, combined with the seemingly endless supply of folktales from all corners of the world, is a boon for readers, as many of these stories are translated and presented in picture-book form. This classic trickster tale from Ayutla, Mexico, pits a gullible coyote against a fetchingly fluffy lamb. The fluff is deceiving, however--resourceful Borreguita has nerves of steel and gleefully outmaneuvers the hungry coyote at every turn. Mathers (Sophie and Lou; The Block Book), one of the reigning queens of quirkiness, injects Aardema's (Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears; Traveling to Tondo) fluid, humorous text with her own deliciously skewed point of view, starting with the slyly subversive endpapers (complete with bogus hieroglyphs) that constitute a sparkling sendup of Southwestern art and ending with the final image of the defeated coyote

literally slinking off the page. Ages 4-8. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal K--Grade 3-- Borreguita, which means simply "little lamb, " lives at the foot of a mountain. When her owner takes Borreguita out to eat in a field of lush, red clover, she is approached by a coyote who has lunch in mind. How this crafty lamb fools the coyote forms the base of this stylish retelling of a tale from Ayutla, Mexico. Aardema's language is simple and direct, allowing readers or listeners to be in on what Boreguita is up to long before the coyote catches on. Mathers's watercolors are the perfect complement, bright in pallete and granting expressiveness to both the coyote and his nemesis. Certain of her illustrations are reminiscent of Rousseau in the use of light and primitive forms, but Mathers always retains a light touch. Large enough in format to share at storytimes, this is a perfect introduction to Mexican folklore, and a great alternative to that other renowned coyote baiter, Beep Beep the Roadrunner.- Ann Welton, Thomas Academy, Kent, WACopyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. See all Editorial Reviews

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