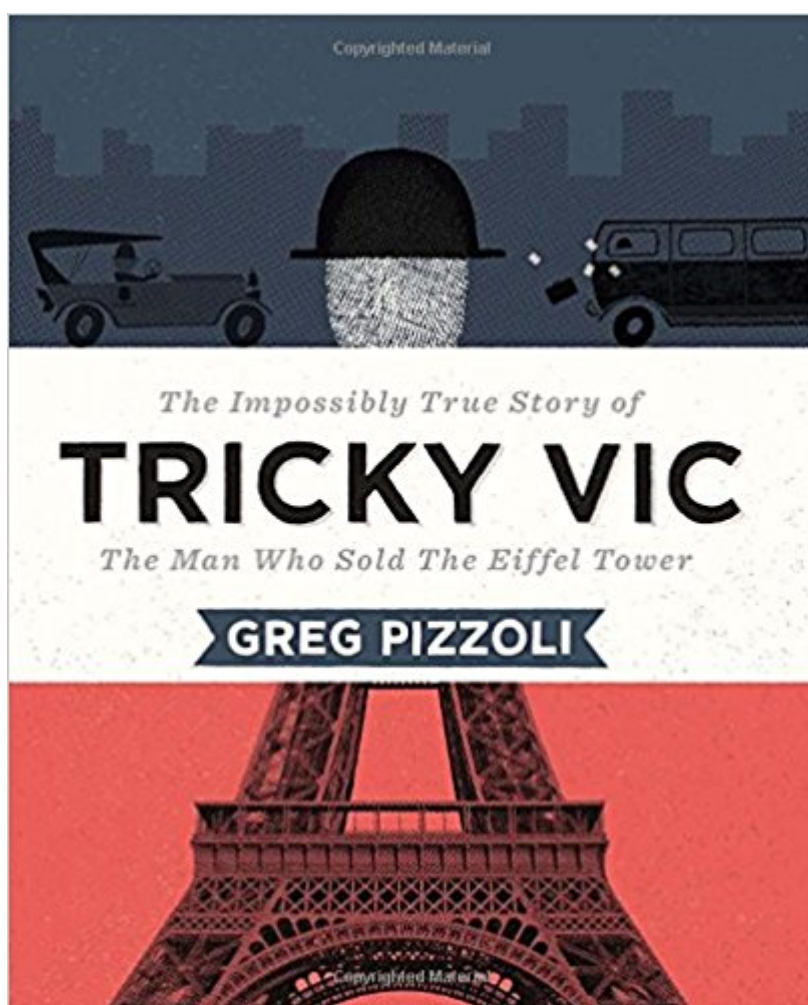


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Tricky Vic: The Impossibly True Story Of The Man Who Sold The Eiffel Tower



Synopsis

A New York Times Book Review Best Illustrated Children's Book of 2015 In the early 1900s, Robert Miller, a.k.a. "Count Victor Lustig," moved to Paris hoping to be an artist. A con artist, that is. He used his ingenious scams on unsuspecting marks all over the world, from the Czech Republic, to Atlantic ocean liners, and across America. Tricky Vic pulled off his most daring con in 1925, when he managed to "sell" the Eiffel Tower to one of the city's most successful scrap metal dealers! Six weeks later, he tried to sell the Eiffel Tower all over again. Vic was never caught. For that particular scam, anyway. . . Kids will love to read about Vic's thrilling life, and teachers will love the informational sidebars and back matter. Award-winner Greg Pizzoli's humorous and vibrant graphic style of illustration mark a bold approach to picture book biography.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1230 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Viking Books for Young Readers (March 10, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0670016527

ISBN-13: 978-0670016525

Product Dimensions: 7.8 x 0.4 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #449,019 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Law & Crime #317 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Europe #737 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Historical

Age Range: 7 - 9 years

Grade Level: 2 - 4

Customer Reviews

Gr 3-6 • This picture book takes a look at Robert Miller, a successful con man who managed to dupe many and by posing as a government official was even able to "sell" the Eiffel Tower to scrap metal dealers, before being caught and imprisoned. Miller used more than 45 aliases during his life but was known to many as Tricky Vic. This is a fascinating story, with quirky,

retro-style, mixed-media art that will appeal to readers. Beyond a line or two at the beginning about Vic turning to a life of crime, Pizzoli doesn't moralize about his subject's actions. Tricky Vic is a little-known subject, and some may wonder if there's an audience for this title. However, this is an intriguing account, and through sidebars, the book offers some effective avenues for discussing related historical events, people, and places, such as Al Capone, Prohibition, counterfeiting, and Alcatraz. An attractive, though esoteric, offering.

Selected for The New York Times ten Best Illustrated Children's Books of 2015
Selected for 's Best Books of the Year list
Selected for the American Library Association's Notable Children's Books List
Nominated for the Children's Choice Book Awards Best Illustrator
"Splendid. . . . Loaded with facts but with good storytelling and high-level illustration. . . . I'm thrilled that Pizzoli has chosen to present [Tricky Vic's] story so compellingly to our nation's children."
•The New York Times
"Intriguing."
•The Wall Street Journal
"What a con job! I mean that in the best possible way. Vic was tricky but so is Greg Pizzoli. His storytelling and mixed-media artwork is rendered with expert sleight of hand."
•Lane Smith, author/illustrator of It's a Book and the Caldecott Honor book Grandpa Green
"It's hard enough to make a well-told story out of real-life things; it's almost unfair that he could also make it this pretty."
•Jon Klassen, author and illustrator of the Caldecott Medal winner This Is Not My Hat
"An appealingly colorful, deadpan account of a remarkably audacious and creative criminal."
•Kirkus Reviews, starred review
"What a fabulous story."
•The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, starred review
"Elementary-school kids impressed by brazen acts of skulduggery will be snowed by this well-told true story."
•Booklist
"Greg Pizzoli gets high marks for derring-do. . . . The bold, graphic mixed-media art made with photographs, rubber stamps, pencil, ink, and digital tools steals the show."
•The Boston Globe
"A fascinating story, with quirky, retro-style, mixed-media art that will appeal to readers."
•School Library Journal
"Stylish illustrations. . . Pizzoli's recounting entertains."
•Publishers Weekly
"With a sophisticated, genially sinister design incorporating cartoons and photographs into a low-toned red and mustard palette, the book signals the right kind of reader: one for whom venality is no obstacle to a good time."
•The Horn Book
"The clever illustrations add to the enjoyment; this is an entertaining biography and an interesting glimpse into the history of a criminal."
•Library Media Connection

I love all Mr. Greg Pizzoli's books! This one is surprisingly engaging. As a graphic designer, I really appreciate all the details he put in the book. It's just so well written, illustrated, and designed all around. I can't wait for my son to grow up old enough to understand the story and appreciate the art work. It's even a good learning experience for me whose mother language isn't English :) Get a copy. You won't regret!

This story was fascinating. As someone who has spent the last 12 years of my life reading to my children at every nap and bedtime, it is fun to get a story that is so odd. Tricky Vic was indeed a very tricky conman and it is unbelievable what he got away with and where he went and who he met! A fun distraction and change from the bears, the dogs, the fairies I have been reading about for 12 years. My 11 and 12 year old children definitely got more out of it than my 5 year old!

Awesome book. The writing is witty, entertaining and informative. My 8 year old grandson and I thoroughly enjoyed this book.

Informative and inventive for all ages! I read it to my husband last night and will read it to the grandchildren on Thanksgiving!

Wonderful non-fiction book that will hook a reader as soon as he or she starts it. This was a very short read & I know my students will love it!

Anything Paris usually tempts me which is why I went for this but did not love story or illustrations.

What a great book! Very cleverly illustrated and fun to read for adults and young adults alike!

We should have been told there were 40 pages of illustrations and 8 pages of text.

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