
A DIFFERENT PRESENT

Text by MARTA AZCONA

Illustrations by ROSA OSUNA

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A different present (English)

ISBN 978-84-8464-683-9. Books for dreaming.

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Un agasallo diferente (Galician)

ISBN 978-84-8464-527-6. Demademora.

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On his birthday, Marcel invited Tristan over to his house for tea.

"Happy birthday!" said Tristan when he saw his friend,

and he handed him a small package.

Marcel opened his present and...

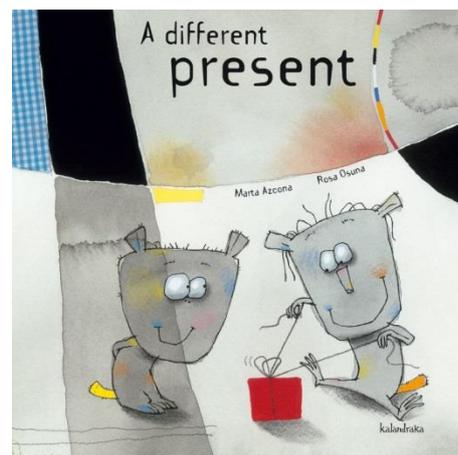
The imagination can turn the most insignificant objects into the most wonderful toys. Tristan presents his friend Marcel with a piece of leftover curtain cloth. Marcel wanted a spinning top, but in the end he comes to appreciate the many uses of a simple piece of cloth: it can be a sunshade, a sail, protection from the wind or even a method for escaping danger...

Potentially, every gift hides disappointment beneath the ribbons and bows. Sometimes we are disappointed because we expected something else, or perhaps the giver hasn't tried hard enough to fulfill our wishes. In the end Marcel appreciates the humble present because both he and his friend come from a world where small, seemingly insignificant objects are valued: cardboard, clothespins, string, cork, a sock or even a stone can become a marvellous toy, a fascinating box of surprises.

In "A different present", Marta Azcona reflects on the nature of disappointment, and explores the innate capacity of children to let their imagination soar and to revel in the simple.

For them, anything can become a precious treasure.

Rosa Osuna spices up the text with interesting contributions such as a mysterious character who follows Tristan and Marcel on their adventures. Her technique combines pastels and fabric appliqués.



■ **Themes:** friendship, consumerism.

■ **Recommended age:** 3 and up.

■ **Highlights:** a secret character hides within the illustrations; different uses for objects; dealing with disappointment; making homemade presents; by the illustrator of "El hilo", "Abuelos" and "¡No es fácil, pequeña ardilla!".

Marta Azcona

She was born in Oviedo. After finishing her degree in English, she moved to Madrid, where she worked in radio and television as a reporter, editor and scriptwriter for various programs and magazines. Two years ago she started writing exclusively for television. Marta has also published "Manual of the bitter, the obsessed and the depressed" (Temas de Hoy). "A different present" is her first children's book.

Rosa Osuna

(Segovia, 1961)

She has a degree in Fine Arts (Madrid), specializing in Design. She worked in graphic design, publicity and textbook illustration, but now she's specialist in illustrations for children's books. "Abuelos" (KALANDRAKA) was her first picture book (Llibreter Prize 2003). It was followed by "¡No es fácil, pequeña ardilla!" and "El hilo".

<http://www.pinterest.com/rosaosuna2>



www.kalandraka.com

comunicacion@kalandraka.com
