

10,000 Dresses

Marcus Ewert

Introduction

The picture book 10,000 Dresses was written by Marcus Ewert and published in 2008.

Every night Bailey dreamed about dresses.

A long staircase led to a red Valentine castle. On each stair was a brand new dress, just waiting to be tried on! 10,000 dresses in all, and each one different.

The first dress was made of crystals. When Bailey slipped the dress on, the crystals clinked against each other like millions of tiny bells. And when sunlight hit the dress just right, rainbows jumped out!

With all her heart, Bailey loved the dress made of crystals that flashed rainbows in the sun.

When Bailey woke up, she went to find Mother.

“Mom, I dreamt about a dress,” said Bailey.

“Uh-huh,” said her mother.

“A dress made of crystals that flashed rainbows in the sun!”

“Uh-huh”

“And I was wondering if you would buy me a dress like that?”

“Bailey, what are you talking about? You’re a boy. Boys don’t wear dresses!”

“But...I don’t feel like a boy,” Bailey said.

“Well, you are one, Bailey, and that’s that!

Now go away and don’t mention dresses again!”

Bailey went to her room. Now she would never have a dress made of crystals that flashed rainbows in the sun.

That night, Bailey walked right past the crystal dress, and went to the second stair. There was a dress made of lilies and roses! When she slipped it on, she saw that the sleeves were made of honeysuckles! Bailey picked a few of the blossoms, to taste the little drops of honey. With all her heart, Bailey loved the dress made of lilies and roses, with honeysuckle sleeves.

Bailey woke up, and went to find Father.

He was in the backyard, pulling up weeds.

“Dad, I dreamt about a dress,” Bailey said.

“Uh-huh,” said her father.

“A dress made of lilies and roses, with honeysuckle sleeves!”

“Uh-huh.”

“And I was wondering if you could grow me a dress like that?”

“Bailey, what are you talking about? You’re a boy. Boys don’t wear dresses!”

“But...I don’t feel like a boy,” she said.

“Well, you are one, Bailey, and that’s that! Now go away and don’t mention dresses again!”

Bailey went to her room. Now she would never have a dress made of lilies and roses, with honeysuckle sleeves.

That night, Bailey walked right past the crystal dress, and the dress made of lilies and roses, and went to the third stair. There was a dress made of windows. One window showed the Great Wall of China, and another, the Pyramids. With all her heart, Bailey loved the dress made of windows, which showed the Great Wall of China and the Pyramids.

Bailey woke up, and went to find her brother.

He was playing soccer with some kids.

“I dreamt about a dress,” she told him.

“A dress made of windows, which showed the Great Wall of China and the Pyramids!”

“You dream about DRESSES, Bailey? That’s gross. You’re a boy!”

“But...” Bailey said.

“But nothing. Get out of here, before I kick you!”

Bailey ran and ran. She ran all the way to the end of the block, until she came to a house with a big blue porch.

An older girl was sitting there, with needles and thread and old sheets. “What are you doing?” Bailey asked.

“Making dresses,” said the big girl. “But it’s really hard. Mine all come out looking the same!”

“Maybe I can help,” said Bailey.

Bailey told Laurel, the big girl, about the dress made out of windows, which showed the Great Wall of China and the Pyramids.

“That’s awesome!” said Laurel. “But how do we make a dress out of windows?”

“We’ll use old mirrors instead,” said Bailey.

Together the girls made two new dresses, which were covered with mirrors of all shapes and sizes.

“These dresses don’t show us the Great Wall of China, or the Pyramids,” said Laurel.

“No,” said Bailey, “but they do show us OURSELVES.”

“You’re the coolest girl I’ve ever met, Bailey!” said Laurel.

“Hey, do you think you can dream up any MORE dresses?”

Bailey grinned. “I think I can dream up 10,000!”

Source

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TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

How does Bailey feel about the dresses in her dreams?

Use words and phrases from the text to support your ideas.

How does Bailey’s family react to her wanting to wear the dresses from her dreams?

How does Bailey respond to their reactions?

Describe Bailey’s meeting with Laurel.

How does Laurel’s reaction to Bailey compare to Bailey’s family’s reaction?

How does Bailey respond to her time with Laurel?

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TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS & Answers

Question: How does Bailey feel about the dresses in her dreams? Use words and phrases from the text to support your ideas.

Answer: Bailey loves them “with all her heart.”

Question: How does Bailey’s family react to her wanting to wear the dresses from her dreams? How does Bailey respond to their reactions?

Answer: Bailey’s family is dismissive, telling her that she’s a boy, boys don’t wear dresses, and she shouldn’t talk about them again. When her parents react, Bailey goes to her room, and when her brother reacts, she runs away.

Question: Describe Bailey’s meeting with Laurel. How does Laurel’s reaction to Bailey compare to Bailey’s family’s reaction? How does Bailey respond to her time with Laurel?

Answer: Bailey finds Laurel making dresses and, together, they make a dress covered in mirrors. Laurel is accepting and doesn’t question Bailey’s affinity for dresses. Bailey grins and is happy.