

# Big Machines: The Story of Virginia Lee Burton

Virginia Lee Burton was a pioneer in the field of children's literature. Her book *Big Machines*, first published in 1934, is a Caldecott Medal winner and is considered one of the most important works in the genre. Burton's unique artistic style and her ability to capture the imagination of children have made her books timeless classics.

Burton was born in Newton Centre, Massachusetts, in 1909. She studied art at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and the Art Students League in New York City. In the early 1930s, she began working as an illustrator for children's books. Her first book, *Choo Choo*, was published in 1935. *Big Machines*, her second book, was published the following year.



## Big Machines: The Story of Virginia Lee Burton

by Sherri Duskey Rinker

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English

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Print length : 48 pages



*Big Machines* tells the story of a group of children who are fascinated by the big machines that are building a new highway near their home. The children watch the machines in awe as they dig, scoop, and pave. They imagine themselves operating the machines and pretend to be construction

workers. The book ends with the children going to bed, their dreams filled with visions of big machines.

Burton's illustrations in *Big Machines* are simple and bold, with bright colors and clean lines. She uses a limited palette of colors, but her illustrations are full of life and movement. The children are drawn with exaggerated features and expressions, which adds to the humor of the book. The machines are depicted with meticulous detail, and Burton captures the power and grace of these massive vehicles.

*Big Machines* was an instant success. It won the Caldecott Medal in 1937, and it has been translated into more than 20 languages. The book has been praised for its realistic illustrations, its engaging story, and its positive message about the power of imagination. *Big Machines* has inspired countless children to dream big and to pursue their interests in engineering and construction.

Burton continued to write and illustrate children's books throughout her career. She published more than 20 books in total, including *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* (1939), *Katy and the Big Snow* (1943), and *The Little House* (1942). Burton's books have been translated into more than 50 languages and have sold more than 10 million copies worldwide.

Burton died in 1968 at the age of 58. She left behind a legacy of beloved children's books that continue to inspire and entertain readers of all ages. *Big Machines* is a testament to Burton's talent as an artist and a storyteller. It is a book that will continue to be cherished by generations to come.

## **The Artistic Legacy of Virginia Lee Burton**

Virginia Lee Burton was a groundbreaking artist who helped to shape the field of children's literature. Her unique style and her ability to capture the imagination of children have made her books timeless classics. Burton's artistic legacy can be seen in the work of many contemporary children's book illustrators.

One of Burton's most distinctive artistic features is her use of color. She used a limited palette of colors, but her illustrations are full of life and vibrancy. Burton's colors are often bright and bold, and she used them to create a sense of movement and energy in her illustrations. She also used color to create a sense of atmosphere and mood in her books.

Burton's illustrations are also known for their simplicity and clarity. She used simple shapes and lines to create her illustrations, and she avoided cluttering her compositions with unnecessary details. This simplicity allowed her to focus on the essential elements of her stories and to create illustrations that were easy for children to understand and enjoy.

Burton's ability to capture the imagination of children is one of her greatest strengths as an artist. Her illustrations are full of humor and whimsy, and they invite children to explore their own imaginations. Burton's books encourage children to dream big and to believe in themselves.

Virginia Lee Burton was a pioneer in the field of children's literature. Her unique artistic style and her ability to capture the imagination of children have made her books timeless classics. Burton's legacy as an artist and a storyteller will continue to inspire generations to come.

## **The Enduring Popularity of Big Machines**

*Big Machines* is one of the most popular children's books of all time. It has been translated into more than 20 languages and has sold more than 10 million copies worldwide. The book has been praised for its realistic illustrations, its engaging story, and its positive message about the power of imagination.

One of the reasons for the enduring popularity of *Big Machines* is its timeless appeal. The book's themes of friendship, imagination, and adventure are universal, and they resonate with children of all ages. The book's simple story and engaging illustrations make it accessible to young children, while its deeper themes appeal to older children and adults.

Another reason for the popularity of *Big Machines* is its positive message about the power of imagination. The book shows children that they can achieve anything they set their minds to, if they only believe in themselves. This message is especially important for children who are interested in engineering and construction. *Big Machines* can inspire them to dream big and to pursue their interests in these fields.

Finally, *Big Machines* is simply a beautiful book. Burton's illustrations are full of life and movement, and they capture the wonder and excitement of big machines. The book is a joy to read and to look at, and it is sure to become a favorite of any child who loves machines.

*Big Machines* is a seminal work in children's literature. It is a book that has inspired generations of children and adults. Burton's unique artistic style and her ability to capture the imagination of children have made her books timeless classics. *Big Machines* is a must-read for any child who loves

machines, and it is a book that will continue to be cherished for generations to come.



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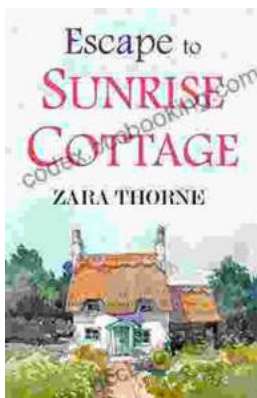
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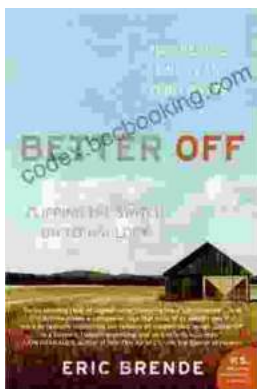
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