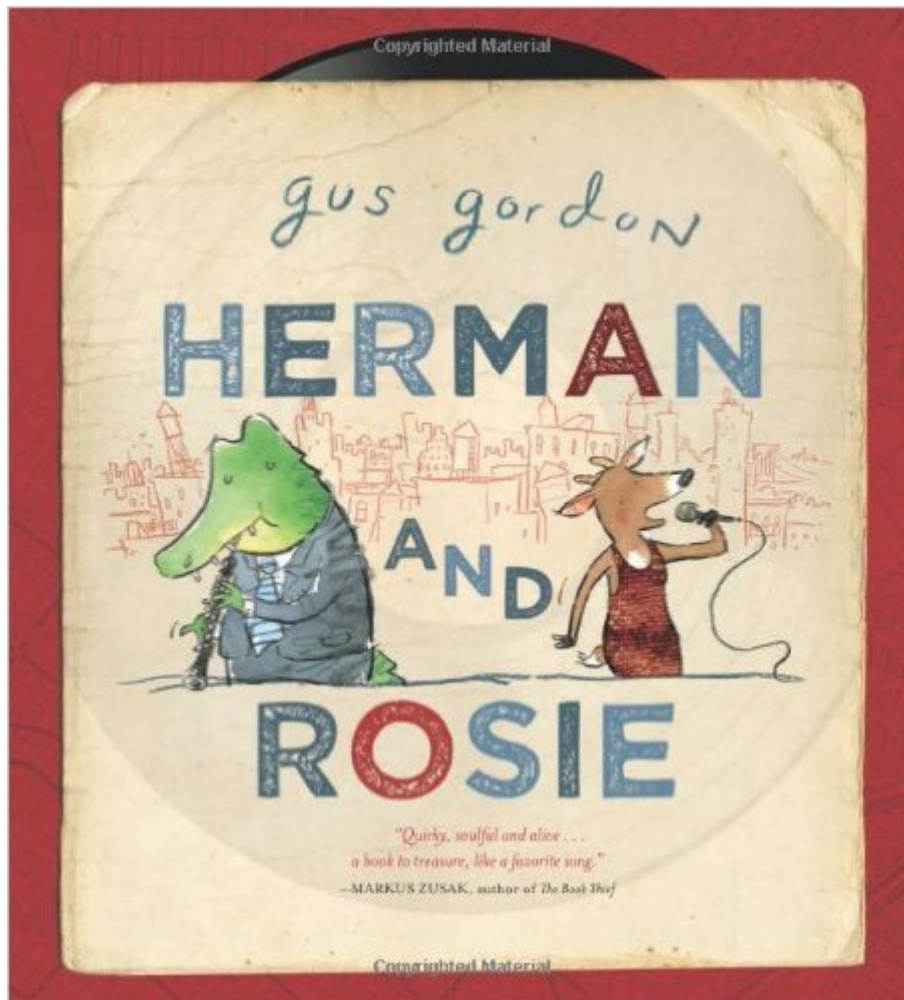


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# Herman And Rosie



## Synopsis

Once upon a time in a very busy city, on a very busy street, in two very small apartments, lived...Herman and Rosie.Herman liked playing the oboe, the smell of hot dogs in the winter, and watching films about the ocean.Rosie liked pancakes, listening to old jazz records, and watching films about the ocean.They both loved the groovy rhythm of the city, but sometimes the bustling crowds and constant motion left them lonely, until one night ...A Neal Porter Book

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 720L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Roaring Brook Press (October 15, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1596438568

ISBN-13: 978-1596438569

Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 0.4 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (24 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #447,404 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #115 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Alligators & Crocodiles](#) #392 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life](#) #5806 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship](#)

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

New Yorkers are singularly single minded. It's not enough that our city be rich, popular, and famous. We apparently are so neurotic that we need to see it EVERYWHERE. In movies, on television, and, of course, in books. Children's books, however, get a bit of a pass in this regard. It doesn't matter where you grow up, most kids get a bit of a thrill when they see their home city mentioned in a work of literature. Here in NYC, teachers go out of their way to find books about the city to read and study with their students. As a result of this, in my capacity as a children's librarian I make a habit of keeping an eye peeled for any and all New York City related books for the kiddos. And as luck would have it, in the year 2013 I saw a plethora of Manhattan-based titles. Some were great. Some were jaw-droppingly awful. But one stood apart from the pack. Written by

an Aussie, Herman and Rosie, author Gus Gordon has created the first picture book I've ever seen to successfully put its finger on the simultaneous beauty and soul-gutting loneliness of big city life. The fact that it just happens to be a fun story about an oboe-tooting croc and deer chanteuse is just icing on the cake. Herman and Rosie are city creatures through and through. Herman is a croc with a penchant for hotdogs and yogurt and playing his oboe out the window of his 7th story home. In a nearby building, Rosie the deer likes pancakes and jazz records and singing in nightclubs, even if no one's there to hear her. Neither one knows the other, so they continue their lonely little lives unaware of the potential soulmate nearby. One day Rosie catches a bit of Herman's music and not long thereafter Herman manages to hear a snatch of a song sung by Rosie.

With SO MANY love songs to a specific place, it's HARD to stand out, but I believe Herman and Rosie is one such stand out. For me, of the many love songs to New York City (Real or Surreal), this book DOES jump out in the most positive sense. The story follows titular characters: Herman, a crocodile salary-man who loves playing his oboe, hot dogs in winter, and movies about the ocean, and Rosie, who loves toffee, movies about the ocean, and singing her heart out at a jazz club at night, after working in the restaurant biz by day. While both Herman and Rosie love life in the city, it can feel lonely at times, sometimes lacking the kind of community building more directly inherent in a small town, or county within a large city or town. The illustrations do an excellent job projecting the urban motif, using collage scrapbook-like elements to further enhance the overall charm to the "New Yorker-esque" illustration style. When I first saw the cover for this book, I almost wanted to weep with joy, because it's unabashedly old-fashioned, in a time when being modern is often meant to mean "Simplistic to a fault." Please understand, I'm not bashing simplicity, when it's right for the story that's fine, whether we're talking words or text, but I don't want simplicity to overly dictate stories that frankly demand some finesse and sophistication. These two have a lot in common, yet like most city slickers, start out as two wayward spirits who are strangers to each other, but certainly not to the readers of their story.

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