

# **POLAR BEAR AND THE UFO**

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**Section:** CHILDREN'S / YOUNG ADULT; Fiction

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**Body**

A ***bear*** embarks on an unexpected, interstellar adventure in Huijgens' picture book. Waiting by an opening in the Arctic ice, ***Polar Bear*** patiently hunts a seal at night. She finally sees bubbles stirring in the frozen sea and investigates.

Rather than finding an animal, however, she finds a small UFO. ***Polar Bear*** isn't happy with this gadget interfering with her dinner, especially when it insists on critiquing her methods: "Perhaps if you baited a hook, set a trap, or cast a reeeeally big net? Of course, there's always my way...something e-l-e-c-t-r-o-m-a-g-n-e-t-i-c?" With these words, the UFO takes the ***Polar Bear*** on the adventure of a lifetime-up among the stars, tempting her with tasty-looking constellations and showing her around planets, such as Mars and Neptune. It isn't until they land back on Earth that readers find out that the trip might not have been what it seemed. This is middle-grade author Huijgens' first foray into writing for preschoolers. Each stop on ***Polar Bear***'s journey feels oddly psychedelic, with illustrator Costas' Martian macaroni rivers, for example, contrasting sharply with her more subdued earthbound tones. While some readers may enjoy the pictures' quirky details, such as popcorn- and candy-shaped space phenomena, more reserved youngsters may find the narrative too outlandish. A colorful and sometimes-bizarre animal-centric story for young SF fans.

**Publication Date: 2020-10-21**

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**Stage: Children's**

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