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## New picture book portrays contemporary having

"Hey, Hey, Hay! A Tale of Bales and the Machines That **Make Them" By Christy Mihaly, Illustrated by Joe Cepeda** Holiday House, 2018

Christy Mihaly and Joe Cepeda have combined noteworthy talents in a picture book about haying, aimed at preschoolers, but with charm that also appeals to adults. The story is told in rhyming couplets that reflect the enthusiastic outlook of the bouncy, overall-clad girl who, together with her mother, spends June and July gathering hay for the winter. The text follows each step of the having process: waiting for the grass to grow tall enough, mowing, fluffing the cut grass with a tedder, waiting for it to dry, raking it

finally storing it in the barn. In loving kids will pore over the the middle of the process, the tractor, the baler, and the less girl and her mother take time familiar tedder, soon masterout "for switchel and a piece of ing vocabulary not necessarily

cake!" Adults stumped when the child listener asks what switchel is will find a recipe for it in the book's concluding pages. Those who remember Laura Ingalls Wilder's "The Long Winter" may recognize it as the "ginger water" Ma sends to Pa and Laura when they are having in scorching hot

weather.

Cepeda's il-

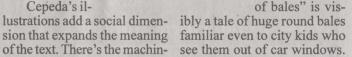
**One-Minute** 

**Book Reviews** 

Laura Stevenson

into windrows, bailing it, and erv, of course -- machinery-

familiar to their parents. But there is also the scenery, with its flat fields, faraway barns and big sky, which takes the book far from Mihaly's Vermont person scenario and the pasto-Jessie Haas' earlier two picture books on having ("Mowing" and "Hurry!"), and sets it in the 21st century Midwest. The "tale





Author Christy Mihaly.

Illustrator Joe Cepeda.

Important in both text and illustrations, the machinery is handled solely by Mom, as is the entire process her daughter rhymes are catchy, the pictures narrates with familiar pride.

The oneis perhaps unral landscape of likely, given the grueling process of haying even with big machines, but the point that the mechanical expertise involved

> in haying (and by implication, farming) is not the exclusive province of white males is well taken.

> > This is a beautifully pro-

duced book, well-coordinated between Vermont author and California illustrator. The delightful and instructive.



Laura Stevenson lives in Wilmington and her most recent novels, "Return in Kind" and "Liar from Vermont," are both set on Boyd Hill Road.

