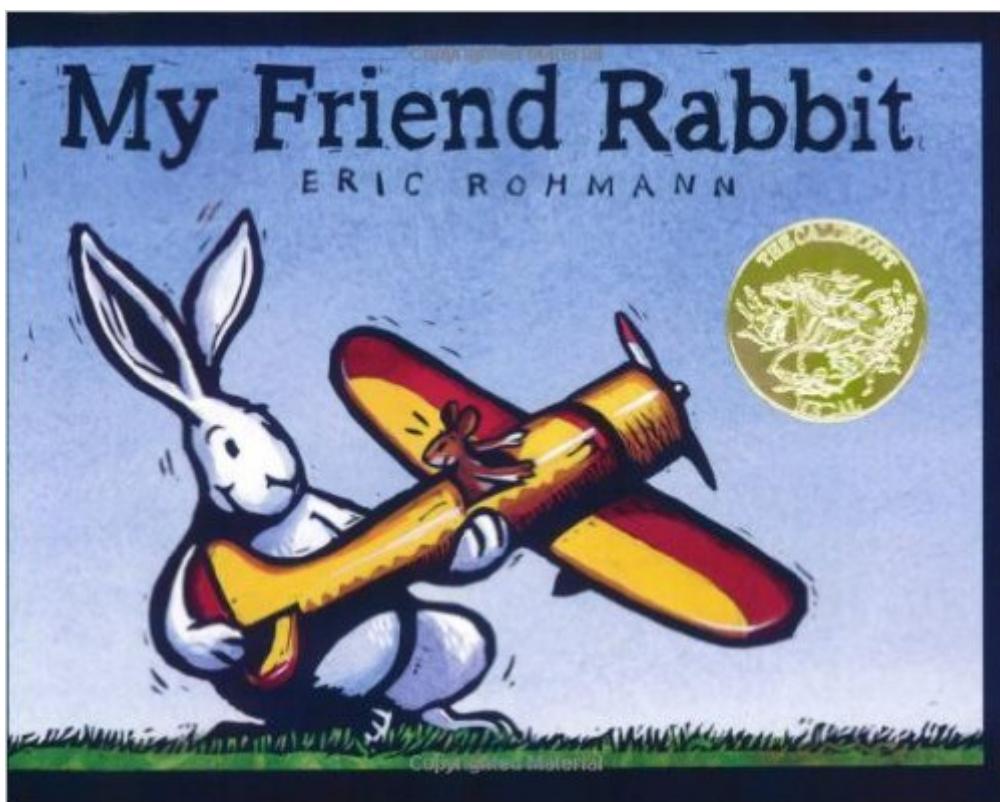


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My Friend Rabbit



Synopsis

Rabbit saves the day in a most ingeneous way. When Mouse lets his best friend, Rabbit, play with his brand-new airplane, trouble isn't far behind. From Caldecott Honor award winner Eric Rohmann comes a brand-new picture book about friends and toys and trouble, illustrated in robust, expressive prints. *My Friend Rabbit* is the winner of the 2003 Caldecott Medal.

Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Square Fish; Reissue edition (March 6, 2007)

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Product Dimensions: 10.5 x 0.1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (74 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #135,533 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #178 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Animals > Rabbits #445 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mice, Hamsters, Guinea Pigs & Squirrels #2663 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

There are some books in the world that you can flip through in the bookstore and get a pretty good idea of the plot and characters. Then there are books like "My Friend Rabbit". Roughly a year ago I wanted to know what all the "My Friend Rabbit" fuss was about. I mean, this book was a 2003 Caldecott Award winner after all. I wanted to see why. So I went to my local independent bookstore and flipped through it. I flipped and flipped and was baffled by the heaping helpfules of praise it had received. My haphazard flipping didn't reveal anything particularly interesting or original in the story. Fast forward a year and I've finally taken the time to sit down and read, "My Friend Rabbit" in its entirety (a process which took me all of 93 seconds). Suddenly I understood why it was so beloved. Though an incredibly simple plot, story, and set of characters, "My Friend Rabbit" is a remarkably beautiful tale of two woodland creatures and their plane related misadventures. It's simple in words and complex in visuals. As Mouse points out from the beginning, "My friend Rabbit means well. But

whatever he does, wherever he goes, trouble follows". That's Mouse's nice way of saying that Rabbit is an all-time screw-up. In this particular outing, Rabbit has managed to get Mouse's brand new airplane (in which Mouse fits like a fury little Lindbergh) stuck in a tree sans Mouse. Quick as a wink Rabbit's off with a, "Not to worry, Mouse. I've got an idea!" thrown over his shoulder. Before you know it he's tugged, dragged, carried, and cajoled a wide variety of animals to stand on one another under the offending tree. Mouse is just able to reach the wing of his plane when the entire group comes crashing to the ground. Rabbit is in big big trouble. Fortunately the plane is now free and two go happily off into the sky. That is, until Rabbit steers them a tad off course. The last words in the book are a too familiar, "Not to worry, Mouse. I've got an idea". Readers can guess what'll happen next. Ho hum, you say. I've seen stories of this ilk before. I won't contest that. Maybe you've seen a dozen similarly ilked picture books in your day. Maybe you're an old hat in the clumsy-rabbit-gets-in-and-out-of-scrapes genre of storytelling. This might all be the case. But you have never, I say I say, NEVER seen anything like this colorful concoction of animalistic cajolery. First of all, the book in and of itself is beautiful to look at. Filled with hand-colored relief prints spanning a rainbow of different colors, the story looks like a series of cheery rounded woodblock images more than anything else. Rohmann's characters are beautifully expressive and original. Each animal has its own personality and individual traits. From the somewhat perturbed goose to the blissfully unaware hippo, they all act, look, and react in different ways. Rohmann isn't afraid to make use of every inch of page space either. Sometimes an image on one page will be of just rabbit pulling on a trunk. The next two page spread is then completely filled with the elephant as Rabbit hops away for more animalia. Pictures will suddenly becomes vertical as suits the story (as when they're standing on one another to reach the tree). There are even pictures that display nothing more than impending doom. When the animals fall from their tower you get a brief image of the baby geese that didn't participate in the Babel-like construction running for cover, just before the creatures hit. And visual humor has never been so beautifully realized as in this tale. There is a shot of every single animal (save mouse and the still smiling hippo) glaring at Rabbit with undisguised malice after their unintentional plummet. Rabbit, who up until this time has had eyes that were simple black dots, looks straight at the viewer with the whites of his eyes very very visible. It's one of those pictures that says a million different things and could only have been drawn in the last ten years. After all, how many picture books can you name off the top of your head where the hero stares at the viewer in fear? Not that it really matters, but I fully support the fact that "My Friend Rabbit" won all the awards that it did. Books of its nature are rarities. This tale is funny, touching, beautiful, and engagingly constructed. It is colorful. It is well-thought out. It is a classic in the purest

sense of the word. It is a wonderful adventure, a touching tale, and a great great book. I praise it with all the praising strength with which I am endowed. Buy it immediately.

Although I was a little surprised that this book was named the Caldecott winner this year, the first time I read it to a class, I understood why. Kindergartners and first graders absolutely LOVE it! They laughed out loud and covered their eyes as the animals tumbled to the ground. I enjoy it more every time I share it with a group of students. It's first rate!

This was in the nightly reading stack for weeks and returns frequently. The book is short on words and requires you to look at the details before the whole story unfolds. We have had fun as we notice different details the more we read this book. My little one is about to turn 3 and may be on the verge of outgrowing this book. I'll be a little sad when she does.

I am 7 years old and learning to read. I loved the story of My Friend Rabbit. It was something my Mum read to me once then I read again and again by myself. She was recently ill so I read it to her at night before I went to bed.

I got this for my 19mo-old son, and we read through it in so much detail, looking at all the pictures and animals and what is happening... When I said it was time to say good night to the book, he held it to his chest and said "bed!". I let him take it to bed and left the hallway light on for him so he could look at it a little longer. For another 15 minutes we heard "Airpane. Uh oh! Mouse. Airpane. Tree. Oh no!" on the monitor. It's now a week later and it's still his absolute favorite and still goes to bed with him.

My 5 year absolutely loves this book, especially the amazing illustrations. She laughs out loud every time we read it together. I once asked her why did the rabbit go through so much trouble to get the plane back for the mouse; she answered "because the rabbit and the mouse are friends." I then asked her why didn't the mouse get mad at the rabbit and just leave; she answered "silly Mommy, I SAID they are friends." I applaud Caldecott's choice for its 2003 medal winner.

Our daughter took nearly a full year to appreciate this book. She got it at one year old, and by two years old she can recite every line and describe every page, even when those pages are not in front of her - she does it from memory. She *loves* this book and asks for it several times a day. The

illustrations are wonderful, the quirky storyline is wonderful - for whatever reason, this book has driven itself into our daughter's mind and she cannot get enough of it, and we love reading it to her.... that is, when she is not reading it to us, even though she cannot read yet. She tells us the story from memory, and loves how all the animals go "plopping" after they build a huge animal tower and later fall. Get this book. If for some reason your child doesn't love it, I'm sure someone else close by will. I don't know why it works, but it sure works with our daughter!

I'm a Speech-Language Pathologist who uses books extensively in my therapy sessions. This is one of my favorite children's books to use with students. It's great for making inferences, talking about feelings, the sequence of events, and making up our own lines for the wordless pages. It has a sweet story line that all of my students love.

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