



The Girl Who Hated Books

By Manjusha Pawagi

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In Meena's house, there are books everywhere. There are books in dressers and drawers and desks, in closets and cupboards and chests. There are books on the sofa, and even books on the stairs. The problem is, Meena hates all of them, as does her cat Max, who has to climb over them. One day, Meena tries to rescue Max and the books come crashing down, freeing a wonderland of characters and animals who take Meena on a fanciful and funny romp through the magic of reading. To her parents' delight, Meena finally sees what an amazing thing a book can be.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 2 Meena is more than a reluctant reader. She abhors books. Even though her parents are avid bibliophiles and her house is filled with reading material, the girl refuses to open a book. Her only ally is Max, the family cat, who has been book phobic ever since an atlas fell on his tail. Only a household accident that sends volumes flying and characters cascading out of books can change Meena's mind. Pawagi's light, ironic touch will amuse children and Meena is a well-drawn character who appeals to the defiant streak in all of them. The watercolor illustrations match the romping mood of the story although their placement on every other page becomes monotonous. There is a definite moral to this inventive tale: children who don't read are missing out on some great adventures. Barbara Buckley, Jericho Public Library, NY
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From [Booklist](#)

Here's a premise that many children--and their parents--will relate to. Meena's parents love books, but Meena hates them. That's especially bad because there are books all over the house--in drawers, on the sofa, but mostly stacked to the ceiling. When Meena's cat winds up on top of one of the tallest towers, Meena tries to rescue him. Instead, she knocks the books over. Down they crash, and out of the pages fly Humpty Dumpty, Ali Baba, Peter Rabbit, and other literary types. Meena tries to stuff them back in their books, but she doesn't know where they belong, never having read any of their stories. So she reads the books, and by the time she's finished bringing the characters back home, she already misses them. Happily, she realizes that all she has to do to see them again is open the book and read. Pawagi cleverly tucks her message into a story that brims with appeal. Although not as wildly inventive as they might have been, the watercolor pictures are nicely crowded, with books and/or book characters. A useful volume to have on hand. *Ilene Cooper*

From Kirkus Reviews

A story about a girl who discovers the joys of the written word, but not without a few disasters. The offspring of two bibliophiles, Meena loathes books. Living in a home virtually overrun with books, Meena and her cat, Max, do their best to avoid the dreaded tomes. However, Meena's attempt to rescue Max from the tower of unread books that has steadily grown since she was born changes all that. When the tower topples, Meena is surrounded by all the characters who inhabit the stories. The only way to get them back to their rightful homes is by reading the books aloud; the characters find their pages, and leap in. Accompanied by Franson's comical illustrations, Pawagi's tale is funny in its imparting of a timely message. (Picture book. 4-8) -- Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jack Lau:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book entitled The Girl Who Hated Books? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have some other opinion?

Tonya Deschamps:

Now a day people who Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not demand people to be aware of each data they get. How many people to be smart in obtaining any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Studying a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information specially this The Girl Who Hated Books book because book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the information in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no doubt in it you may already know.

Laura Rogers:

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Bruce Herrera:

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