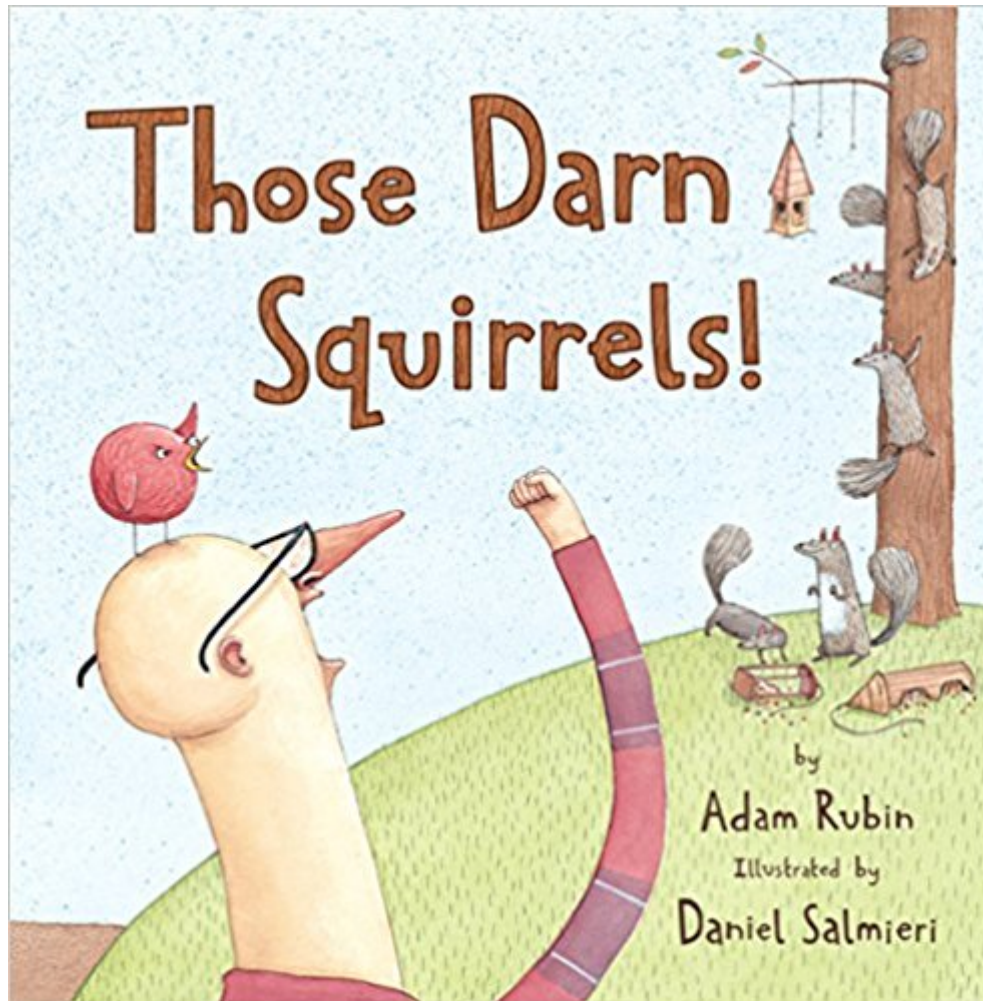




The book was found

Those Darn Squirrels!



Synopsis

The story of what happens when a grumpy old man and some mischievous squirrels match wits with hilarious results. Old Man Fookwire is a grump who only likes to paint pictures of birds that visit his backyard. The problem is, they fly south every winter, leaving him sad and lonely. So he decides to get them to stay by putting up beautiful birdfeeders filled with seeds and berries. Unfortunately, the squirrels like the treats, too, and make a daring raid on the feeders. The conflict escalates until the birds depart (as usual), and the squirrels come up with a plan that charms the old grump.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 600 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (September 6, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547576811

ISBN-13: 978-0547576817

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.1 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 581 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,045 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Children's Books >

Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Country Life #14 in Books > Children's Books >

Animals > Mice, Hamsters, Guinea Pigs & Squirrels #141 in Books > Children's Books >

Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 4 • This simple tale has a sneaky, edgy humor that erupts into hilarity as well as a warm, stabilizing feeling for humanity in all of its quirky manifestations. "Old Man Fookwire was so old that when he sneezed, dust came out. He was also a grump. He hated pie. He hated puppies. The only thing he liked was birds." This verbal introduction to the main character is enhanced with paintings reminiscent of some of the best European children's book illustrations of an exaggeratedly skinny, flannel-shirted caricature with a long neck, long nose, oversized glasses, and protruding Adam's apple. He never smiles, even when he's painting

pictures of the birds that visit his yard every summer. In an attempt to keep the birds around when autumn arrives, he builds wonderful birdfeeders. They do indeed attract the birds—but they also catch the eye of the squirrels. The cheerful, brilliant, and adorable creatures are shown using pulleys, weights, and remarkable cooperative planning to foil Fookwire and raid the feeders. The old man fights back. But the squirrels, still smiling and hopeful, stay up all night for a planning meeting and devise a daring escapade that relies heavily on their deep understanding of physics and their willingness to be launched through the air. What happens to the squirrels, the birds, and to Old Man Fookwire is a symphony of regret, respect, and sweetness. Readers will want to linger over this book and treasure every page.

—Susan Weitz, formerly at Spencer-Van Etten School District, Spencer, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Winner of a Borders Original Voices Award A 2009 Children's Choice Award nominee
“Bald Fookwire is a riot. . . and the squirrels, with their bloated bellies and contented smiles, are a flying hoot in this droll debut.”
—Kirkus Reviews, STARRED REVIEW
“A symphony of regret, respect, and sweetness. Readers will want to linger over this book and treasure every page.”
—School Library Journal

My 5 year old loves all 3 of the Darn Squirrels books. He anxiously awaited the Cat Next Door, and was thrilled when it arrived. I had to read it twice in a row. He asked me if there were going to be more. I think he wants an entire series. Fortunately, the books are silly, but not in a way an adult would find terribly dull. They aren't great literature, by far, but they're amusing and fun. My son and I both shake our fists and shout, "Those darn squirrels," every time it shows up on the page. He thinks it's hilarious, and I think it's adorable.

There are three of these books, and I love each and every one of them. We put off purchasing copies because the local library has them, but I figured when my kids (aged 4 and 6) shouted "THE LIBRARY IS OPEN WE NEED THOSE DARN SQUIRRELS" each time we drove past our town library (which is often!), that I should just man up and buy them. It's a hilarious book about a grouchy old man who hates everything except the birds in his yard, and what starts out as a comical story quickly ends as a poignant tale of friendship when the lonely old man is befriended by the very thing he hates most: those darn squirrels. We read this constantly at my house, and it never gets old for my husband and I, which is good because some children's books become mundane after the

second or third read. The pictures are hilarious as well, and there are small nuances on each page that only make them funnier. I think that to enjoy these books you'll need a quirky sense of humor, though, so if you don't think funny old men in silly pants and sarcastic squirrels are funny, then it may not be for you. As for me, I'm buying the next two in the series! (I also read these books to my 6th grade classes, and they found them just as hilarious as I did.)

This book is just hilarious. The angry ole cat next door to Old Man Fookwire is just too mean. My grandkids had to be taught what a wet willy and a nookie are. But the page where the cat gives the squirrels all wedgies is their favorite. Very creative and is sure to be a family favorite through the ages. I am getting all of this authors.

Very funny, and entertaining! We have squirrels who come down from the trees every day to share the scratch we throw out for the chickens. The birds here do the same thing. We have to buy extra feed in order to keep this entertainment going, but it is well worth it for the show. This book takes that entertainment to the next step to show how the squirrels can show their appreciation. Really cute, and this will be a book I read to the children in my life over and over. (My husband and I got a kick out of this book, as well.)

I purchased this as a gift for my Dad. He loves squirrels, I mean he LOVES them. Every year for holiday I get him a squirrel themed gift, I stumbled across this series of book and have only given him one so far but the gift was a total hit! I recommend for young and old.

My daughter (age 3) thinks this book is hilarious and my husband and I do too. She now wants to make bird feeders! Tells a subtle little moral and would be appropriate for many age groups. I substitute the words "did not like" for "hate" for my daughter because she misuses that word frequently. I don't like that word in kid's books personally, but the rest of the story is so good that I don't mind skipping past it. I plan to use this as a seasonal book in our home, and bring it out during fall when the story takes place. This is a great addition to our fall and winter collection of books.

I started reading Adam's books to my preschool class a few months ago. They fell in love the second I introduced the titles. We are in the city and play in the park. They relate to the squirrels, they already thought we had a dragon living above the classroom and love blowing bubbles...now they get where they go. Adam gets the mindset and imagination of a child. I love it. And I love they

are all illustrated by someone i went to art school with :)

I bought this book as a joke for my father-in-law who hates squirrels. It was brought to my attention after purchasing, "Dragons Love Tacos." It is a cute story that not only entertains the child but the adult reader as well.

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