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The Dragon And The Turtle Go On Safari



Synopsis

“Padraig, my friend, it is time for us to be courageous.” Padraig the dragon and his best friend, Roger the turtle are determined to spend the whole night outside. As brave explorers at the base of Mount Sillymanborrow, the boys use their imaginations to have fun while munching on crunchy baked bugs and toasting s’mores over their campfire. But when the sky gets dark and the sounds of strange animals fill the forest outside their tent, their safari gets scary. This adventure is just what the boys need to discover that the dark might be frightening, but their friendship is stronger than fear.

Book Information

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Age Range: 4 and up

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 12

Customer Reviews

A former schoolteacher, Donita K. Paul is the best-selling author of the Dragon Keeper series, The Vanishing Sculptor, and Dragons of the Valley. Evangeline Denmark likes to turn bedtime stories into picture books. She lives in Colorado with her engineer husband, their two noisy boys, her author mom, and Willie, a cattle dog who tries to herd the entire family into one room. Vincent Nguyen has illustrated numerous children's books and is also a part of the art departments for 20th Century Fox and Blue Sky Studios.

Excerpt Roger the turtle blew on his toasted marshmallow. “It’s going to be fun spending the

whole night at the base of Mount Sillymanborrow. "I didn't know it got so dark on safari," said Padraig the dragon. "That's why we have this fire," said Roger. "It's a roaring good one too." Padraig settled into his seat. "Toss me another marshmallow." "Proper adventurers always say please," Roger teased. "Yes, indeed. Please." Padraig speared a puffy marshmallow with a stick. Roger searched the ground. "Padraig, my good fellow, is the box of baked bugs on your side?" As the dragon handed over the crunchy treat, a screeching noise made him jump, hover in the air, then return to the ground with a whump. "My stars! What was that?" "Not to worry, old chap. That was definitely the call of a howler monkey," Roger explained. "Oh, righto," said Padraig. "Very loud fellows, aren't they?" "Indeed." Roger nodded. "Now about those baked bugs." "Oh, stinky aphids! I dropped them all over." "I'll help you clean up." The turtle gulped a crispy bug, then paused. "Wait! Did you hear that rustling?" Padraig squinted into the night. "What makes leaves rattle in the tippy top of a tree?" The boys looked at each other. "Giraffe!"

Donita K. Paul and Evangeline Denmark have written a great follow-up to the Turtle and the Dragon, where we first meet Roger and Padraig. Both are learning how to use their special talents, especially to help others in need. The artwork is also beautiful beyond all expectations and helps move the story along as well. I don't have children of my own, but I have purchased both of the Paul/Denmark books as gifts for the children and grandchildren of friends and know they will be well received. :)

You will want to read this book a couple of times before reading to your children. However that said, you can develop your own style. The story is about two friends, Turtle and Dragon who spend the night outdoors. It utilizes a few themes to create a uniquely creative story. Written in a sort of "Sherlocky Holmes" manner, this story is comparable to the Skippyjon Jones books. I will probably buy the other Turtle/Dragon books, highly recommend.

The Dragon and the Turtle Go on Safari By Donita K. Paul and Evangeline Denmark Illustrated by Vincent Nguyen Roger the turtle and Padraig the dragon travel to Mount Sillymanborrow for a camp out. They are determined to spend the whole night there by their selves. The story begins at their campsite where they are roasting marshmallows and crunching on a box of baked bugs. As the night grows there nerves do not and they comfort and entertain each other with their vivid imaginations and retreat to their tent to try and sleep and make it through the night. The more frightened they

become the stronger their friendship grows. This is a really cute book and I enjoyed reading it and loved the illustrations. I was surprised at the length of the book but I found it entertaining. Children will easily relate to the characters in the book and identify with their fears they encounter in the night. Each character is likable and I really enjoyed the dragon named Padraig. Although he is given an Irish name, he and Roger speak as if they are British and the dialogue that goes on between the boys is enjoyable. The conversation, the adventure, and the story are fun. I think the book would be enjoyed by all children but because of the length it may be better suited for children 7 and up. I'm sure it will become a favorite bed time story for my grandchildren. **DISCLOSURE:** A product sample was provided for review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed in this post are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255. This is a MamaBuzz review. The product was provided by RandomHouse.com/Waterbrook Multnomah Publishing Group for this review.

In December I was introduced to the new book *The Dragon and the Turtle*. I really liked the story line and follow-up ideas at the end of the book. I was excited for the next book to become available especially since I felt it was a book that appealed to boys. *The Dragon and the Turtle Go on Safari* is a story about facing your fears. "Camping outside in the dark scares Padraig and Roger, but they choose to be courageous. They even brave the unknown to rescue someone smaller and weaker." Momma C's Thoughts: Cute plot with lots of potential. Sadly the plot gets lost in a lot of words and the humor flies over the head of a 4 to 8 year old. About half way through the book I realized what was going on. Bubs pointed out that the raccoon had elephant ears and nose. We stopped and went back to the beginning and realized that when the Dragon and Turtle heard the noise, the real animal was illustrated. When they discussed what the animal was (in their minds), the illustrator combines the real animal and what they thought they heard (the elephant looking raccoon). The Turtle uses pirate phrases as he talks. My kiddos didn't understand these. Other comments needed my explanation as well - jungle fever, s'more, quarry, noble deed, etc. Because there were so many words and abstract concepts to my four and six year old, they lost interest very quickly. I found this book hard to read because of all the jumping of the sentences and wordiness. I really hate rating this book low because I did really enjoy the first book *The Dragon and the Turtle*. I hope that the author will write more Dragon and Turtle books. But, I hope that the writing will be appropriate for the target age group and smoother to read. Thank you Waterbrook Publishing for giving me the opportunity to review this book.

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