



Orville: A Dog Story

Haven Kimmel , Robert Andrew Parker (Illustrator)

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A big, ugly dog is happy to meet a farmer and his wife who decide to give him a name and a home, but not so happy when they chain him to the barn. All Orville can do is bark to tell the world how unhappy he is, and the more he barks, the more he is left alone. But everything changes when Sally MacIntosh moves into the little house across the road and Orville falls in love.

A beautifully crafted text that blends wry humor with the poignant twang of a country-and-western song is accompanied by dreamy, spare watercolor-and-ink illustrations for a fresh, original picture book that will resonate with anyone who has ever felt lonely or misunderstood.

Orville: A Dog Story Details

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Author : Haven Kimmel , Robert Andrew Parker (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Orville: A Dog Story for online ebook

SaraKat says

Sniff, sniff. Poor Orville. This tells the story of how dreams can come true even if it takes a lot of time and heartbreak first.

Amy Adams says

I love Haven Kimmel's nonfiction collections for adults. I was happy to find this book she created for children! It's an unusual picture book, and I think people of all ages will connect to it. It's a fantastic book for anyone who loves dogs! It's packed with meaning and emotion in a very concise and moving way. It definitely made me cry, but it also made me smile. The pictures truly add to the story, and it's just an overall great book!

Alicia says

This is the saddest picture book about a dog I've ever read. I guess because it could be a real story about a real dog. It's not funny, or clever, or 'cutsey'. I wouldn't suggest it for preschoolers, and elementary age would need to understand it isn't written for entertainment.

McKinley says

From a dog's perspective.

Susan says

This is a heartbreakingly beautiful book about love, chains, and the importance of holding onto a dream. Orville, a mistreated dog, can read people's whole lives in their smells. His sadness in the opening part of the book made me cry. But Orville falls in love, and there's a bittersweet ending. The writing here is amazing. A gift to Sofia from Duncan in 2004.

People reviewing this here say it is a children's book. It is in picture book format, but the message here really speaks to all ages. Orville's loneliness is intense (as is that of some of the other characters).

Jackie says

Orville: A Dog Story is a bittersweet story about a dog and his life as an ugly dog. It seems, that whoever is

in charge of him, feels the need to chain him up outside their house. He always manages to escape and run away...yet, at the farm house of Maybelle and Herbert, he spies a lonely girl named Sally who he feels the need to protect. And, so, he escapes his chains to sleep next to the girl who eventually makes him feel wanted.

christine says

4 paws up! Orville is more than the world's ugliest dog and a survivor in a world that abandoned him. He makes connections for the most unlikely of people.

Wendy says

I think this poignant story is made more so by the fact that it is told through the dog's perspective.

Many of us, unfortunately, can report a time when we witnessed or experienced deliberate cruelty or ignorance and neglect playing an ugly part in the mistreatment of animals. This story is for those who support animal rights, who try to protect them, who actively honor dogs as 'man's best friend.'

Christine says

I cried!

Beth says

A sad, somber story of a dog who just wants to be loved but finally ends on a hopeful note.

Catalina says

Orville is an ugly dog without a past. He can see in people's hearts. I appreciated the simplicity of the story and the fact that the story does not romanticize human relationships with dogs. People do not have to treat their pets well or bad. There can also be very little contact, as well as a lot of misunderstandings. I like Orville.

Summary: Orville is not a very cute dog, but he can see in people's hearts. He is found by an old couple who lives in the countryside; they think that by chaining him in the barn they are giving him a good home. Orville is terribly sad until a new neighbor moves in.

Peace Perspective: Orville offers a non-anthropocentric perspective to the mostly serene countryside life. A great story that conveys the message that animals too have feelings, hopes, and dreams; its audience will learn to have more consideration for those surrounding them.

Natalie says

Orville: A Dog Story is a unique illustrated story . The book jacket describes it as a story about "lonesomeness, about barking, about getting free from chains, and about love". That pretty well sums it up! Excellent read for adults, dog lovers, and people who believe even old dogs can learn new tricks!

Jennifer Hughes says

Although billed as a children's book, Haven Kimmel's beautiful writing here will appeal to older readers. The book is a little on the long side for a picture book, and elements where the dog is ignored or mistreated might be upsetting for smaller children. I also felt like the illustrations detracted from the writing, but the wonderfully imperfect characters, symbolism and lovely writing shine through.

Dolly says

This is a melancholy book about an ugly dog who finally finds a home. The illustrations are rough and difficult to discern in many places and the story is interesting, but often frustrating and sad. There were a few places where our oldest cried, "That's not fair!" with tears in her eyes.

We enjoyed reading it together, but I would only recommend it for older children. I think it could be too upsetting for younger kids.

Kate says

Anyone who has ever rescued or adopted a dog must read this book! The artwork is unfortunately icky, but the story makes up for it big time! It's one tear-jerker of a picture book.
