



Ottoline Goes to School

Chris Riddell

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Meet Ottoline and her hairy, helpful friend Mr Munroe. No secret is ever too scary for the two of them to discover together. Ottoline is off to the Alice B. Smith School for the Differently Gifted. She is rather worried that she doesn't have a special gift.

Ottoline Goes to School Details

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Author : Chris Riddell

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From Reader Review Ottoline Goes to School for online ebook

Anastasiaadamov says

Beautifully illustrated and amazingly written. Watchfull readers will have fun with finding new interesting details in the illustrations. Characters were especially endearing

Thebruce1314 says

I needed a palate cleanser, and this was a perfect book to read the day before school starts again. It's been quite awhile since I read the first book in the series, and I'd forgotten how awesome Chris Riddell is! While the text is very simple, the illustrations and occasional accompanying comments add more layers to the story. Very fun read!

Deb says

I like the illustrations and the style of this author. I plan to read all the Ottoline books.

Anna says

Chris Riddell's illustrations and character designs, his whimsical and absolutely unique storylines are something that sticks to you like honey. Sweet and aromatic, the slight buzzing of bees still entrancing you as if in a dream. Even as an adult I enjoy reading his books and discovering page after page. His lead characters are friends you want to keep for the rest of your life while their friendships and bonds touch you deep down and put a smile on your face even when you are in a mood. Love this series.

LH Johnson says

It's very easy for somebody who reads a lot of books to miss an author. And yet, equally, it's also very easy to have a consciousness of who and what that author is and how they do what they do. This is where I stood with Chris Riddell; conscious that I hadn't really read much of his work, but conscious that his work was *good*. And I'd come to that decision for a variety of reasons, not just for the quality of his art work which burns from his books like fire, but also because of the children I knew who pretty much swallowed each and everything he'd published. Sometimes the biggest thing for me, as an adult who's involved in children's literature, is to step back and recognise my position as a guest in this space. And if an author's work is devoured, furiously, hungrily, then that's an important thing to take note of.

I picked up Ottoline Goes To School after Chris had delivered a charming and annoyingly inspiring lecture at Homerton College. I didn't possess the persistence or elbows to get to the bookshop first and grab the sumptuous Travels with my Sketchbook which I've had my eyes on for a while, but Ottoline Goes To School

was an appropriate, and by no means secondary, choice. I was intrigued to see what Riddell did with the school story because they are sort of my thing. And when I got it signed by him, I did my traditional slightly incoherent stare and babble because that too, is also my sort of thing.

This, the second of the Ottoline series, is a delight. Ottoline is off to the Alice. B. Smith School For The Differently Gifted; a boarding school for children with a special an often quite peculiar gift. As she's trying to figure out what her gift might be, a ghost starts to haunt the school...

I was trying to figure out the best way to describe this lovely book and the idea I kept coming back to was cleanliness. That's perhaps a little bit of an odd phrase to use and one, I suspect, which doesn't crop up in children's literature criticism that often so let me explain a bit more about what I mean.

Ottoline Goes To School is one of those books that balances word with image and does so without compromising the integrity of each. In fact, it's so beautifully and carefully balanced, this mediation between the visual and the textual, that every page is a delight. And it's challenging too! Whilst Ottoline is engaged in the complexities of a new school and a Slightly Tremulous New Friendship, Mr Munroe is carefully scouting out the school and trying to figure out what's going on. And that's the cleanliness, right there, that ability to balance and deliver whole, heartfelt, narrative in word and image without compromising or pressing on the space of the other elements within the spread. This book is so clean, so crisp and sharp, that it's a joy.

Julie says

Another lovely book in the Ottoline series. A fund story combined with Chris Riddell's fabulous illustrations make this a great read for children.

Touloulou says

J'adore les romans d'Apolline / Ottoline de Chris Riddell.

Ca se lit très vite (30 minutes au parc m'ont suffi !), l'histoire est pleine de malice et d'humour, à l'image d'Apolline, et les illustrations dont je suis admirative (depuis que j'ai commencé à lire cet auteur pendant mon adolescence) regorgent de détails qu'on peut passer de longs moments à trouver.

Dans ce roman, Apolline découvre la vie à l'école, en internat, et dans une école pas comme les autres, où chacun recherche son don spécial. Une lecture qui montre aux enfants qu'il est bon de rêver parfois, que chacun a son don unique et nul pareil à ceux des autres et qui en prime distille l'air de rien un joli message sur l'importance de l'amitié...

Seul regret, c'est trop court (pour les grands enfants comme moi !)

Sarah says

This is a quick read for kids reading on their own. There are several stories in the Ottoline series. The illustrations are fantastic. Pen and ink with so much detail. Reminiciant of Edward Gorey, but cleaner. Ottoline makes a new friend at the park. When Cecily has to leave to go back to school, Ottoline decides she wants to go too. Each girl has parents who are not very involved in their lives and each girl handles this differently.

Neville Ridley-smith says

The Ottoline books are simply delightful.

With respect to playing with the book form, this one goes even further into graphic novel territory - using totally silent panels and in one or two cases going to a full-on bunch of silent panels showing the action exactly as you'd find in any comic.

The **only** reason I don't give these 5 stars is because the stories are somewhat ho-hum. They're ok but nothing spectacular. Also the humour is very laid back - only a few times is it funny enough to make me actually laugh - most of the time it's just pleasant whimsy, ala W Heath Robinson.

Mehsi says

My third read for this book, and no matter how many times I read it, I love the story! I didn't always like Ottoline in the beginning, she treated Munroe as if he wasn't there (and didn't notice that made him sad), but the parts where she goes to school were a delight to read. The lessons sound absolutely brilliant, wish I could go to that school. Minus the haunting though, but even that one wasn't hard to figure out. Of course the illustrations are fabulous!

Melanie says

Love the drawings in these books. Cute story. My niece and I enjoyed reading it together.

Reetta Saine says

Mauri joutuu mustasukkaisuuden kouriin, kun Otilia saa toisenkin ystävän. Yhdessä lähdetään hyvin erityislaatuiseen kouluun, jossa on **lemmikeille** oma siipi.

Brittilastenkirjallisuudestakin alkaa löytää sellaisia toistuvia trendejä ja hauskuusteemoja, kun näitä työkseen lukee. Kotimaisten kanssa välillä toivoisi, että niitä "peruskivoja" salapoliisi-perhe-hassu-juttuja olisi vähän vähemmän, angloilla taas Outous (?) on selvästi jotain niin pelottavaa, että sen kanssa pitää leikkiä kirjassa jos toisessakin. Onneksi Riddell on sieltä paremmasta päästä.

Grace says

I actually like this sequel better than 'Ottoline and the Yellow Cat'.

Both are very charming, with a distinct style.

It reminds me a little of the 'Eloise' books by Kay Thompson, and other classic books too.

I see that most reviewers on here prefer the first book, but I actually liked this one better.
I liked that I felt it focused more on Ottoline's character.
The first book focused a lot on the mystery of the Yellow Cat.
This book focused more on Ottoline as a character.
It was an entertaining and cute book!

Anna says

I wasn't crazy about this book. It's not great and it's not bad either. Ottoline's parents are travelers who are often away but she doesn't seem to mind as she has her best friend Mr. Munroe and lots of grown-ups to look after her. One day she meets Cecily Forbes-Lawrence III in the park by her apartment and they quickly become friends. Cecily goes to Alice B. Smith School for the Differently Gifted and Ottoline soon decides that she would like to attend too. Once Ottoline reaches the boarding school the real adventures begins. There are ghosts lurking about the school doing all sorts of nasty things, with the help of Mr. Munroe Ottoline soon gets to the bottom of the mystery.

The story line is clearly written and obvious enough for early readers to follow. I think the concept of boarding school and a life where parents are rarely around might be enough to interest some children but the overall story isn't terribly exciting. The illustrations however, are very well done and truly what make the book interesting.

Ages: 7-10

Kristýna (The Book Talk Blog) says

Recenze: <http://thebooktalkblog.blogspot.cz/20...>
