



A Wonderful Year

Nick Bruel

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A *really* cold winter.

A demented fairy.

A hippo named Louise.

A talkative tree.

Find out what other wonderful things a year can bring in these four interrelated stories—one for each season—by Nick Bruel, creator of the bestselling Bad Kitty books.

A Wonderful Year Details

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Author : Nick Bruel

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From Reader Review A Wonderful Year for online ebook

Sharon Lawler says

Picture book which illustrates the vibe of each season as experienced by The Girl. Story begins with a winter scenario all northern kids remember--the bulky clothing, the inability to move, and the amount of time you spent donning all the layers to go outside. Exhausting. In this story, when The Girl finally finishes donning her blizzard attire, opens the door , and finds spring has arrived. Bouncing out of the winter duds, she transforms into a merry Fairy Princess of spring and song. With the heat of summer, the song has turned into the lament, "It's so hot ..." and has her melting into the sidewalk, to be saved by Louise the Hippo who places her completely melted friend in the freezer. When she emerges, The Girl, now feels "chilly", and as she reads to the tree, the leaves slowly begin to change from red to orange to yellow and finally brown. Nice finish with when the tree gives her last leaf to The Girl as a bookmark. This is a great discussion book for preschoolers through second grade.

Margie says

Without question I am considered an ardent fan of winter. Hiking or snowshoeing through the woods or across an open field with my canine pal, Xena, tops my list of favorite things to do. Crisp clear air, sun making the snow sparkle like diamonds, the pop and crackle of trees and the chirping of chickadees are my idea of the outdoors at its finest. With that being said, this winter, the winter of 2015, is free to go at any time.

It began in earnest in the middle of November and then the much-loved snow depths faltered leaving us with crunchy crust, ice, howling winds and bitter temperatures. From chatter on social media I am well aware most people along the east coast are probably taking pages from seed catalogs using them for wallpaper. They are trying to substitute scenes of spring and summer for the snow piles seen outside their windows...that is, if they can even see out their windows.

Venturing outside is falling into the category of only when absolutely necessary; wearing so many layers you could probably win a mummy championship. That's why last night, after putting another log on the fire and burrowing under a pile of blankets, I found myself laughing out loud over and over. Reading A Wonderful Year (A Neal Porter Book, Roaring Brook Press, January 6, 2015) written and illustrated by Nick Bruel is like taking a hilarious trip through the four seasons with a guide who really gets the essence of each one.

My full recommendation: <http://librariansquest.blogspot.com/2015/01/a-wonderful-year.html>

Miss Ryoko says

This is the first non-Bad Kitty Nick Bruel book I've read and of course, he didn't disappoint. What a great picture book!! I loved it!

Leslie says

A fun, clever book!

Jana says

This fun picture book takes readers through all four seasons by looking at one girl's adventures. At first glance, the book seems somewhat peculiar and cartoonish. But as I read on, I really started to enjoy the offbeat humor of it along with the connections made between the different parts of the book. I found myself smiling and looking back and forth through the pages of it. This would be a great book to have on the shelf all year long.

Donalyn says

Rated by Emma.

Mary says

A quirky picture book about a young girl that is told in four chapters, one for each season. With graphic novel panels, the bright and colorful illustrations and humor are reminiscent to Bruel's Bad Kitty series. Observant readers will appreciate the book's silliness. However, the last chapter is different in tone and ends on a bittersweet note. A clever addition to kindergarten units on the seasons.

Shannon says

This book is kind of weird, but I like the author's sense of humor. The sleeping cat was definitely my favorite part of this book, but every season has something great that should keep kids interested.

Hannah Groeschen says

This book was unique and didn't follow a normal train of thought. I really enjoyed the creative perspective on the four seasons of the year.

Pam says

Clever story of a young girl enjoying all four seasons.
Illustrations are colorful and help bring the text to life.

Juliet says

Four sections that correspond to seasons, sees a little girl and her imaginative playtime. Winter is about surviving all the gear. Spring is about costumes and rhymes, summer is an imaginary rhino named Louise and a creative, silly way to cool down.

The book alternates between full pictures and panels to tell the story. The text is placed creatively around the page which adds to the playful spirit of the book. The drawing style is cartoon like and casual with colorful details in the illustrations and some key words emphasized. For example, "Go Away" in red, "SPLORT" in blue" that reinforce the season and emotion.

The most imaginative season is summer, where Louise the hippo becomes the main character. Because the girl isn't named, children can place themselves in her shoes and keep imagining.

West coast children might need more context for the winter scene. Target audience is preschool and kindergarten. The book would be a fun jumping off point for talking about brainstorming and imagining. The girl is the only human shown which could lead to a discussion on how one is never truly alone if you have your imagination.

Melanie says

Nick Bruel, creator of Bad Kitty, brings his colorful illustrations to a new book about the seasons. The story, told mostly in graphic novel style panels, begins in winter. Various household objects, as well as her mother, tell the child to put on many various articles of clothing and by the time she's all dressed it has turned to spring. She flings off her winter garb and head outside to bother the cat with an imaginary story. But then summer comes and it's too hot to walk around outside with a hippo, so the hippo sticks her in the freezer after she melts. Once she's an ice cube he takes her outside and she becomes a girl again but is beginning to feel the chill of autumn. In the autumn section, the layout is that of a typical picture book. The girl is sitting under a tree reading when the tree decides to strike up a conversation.

As usual with picture books in chapter format, it didn't flow well. Also, in picture books, stick to one style. If you're going to do graphic novel style layout, stick to it. Don't switch at the very end.

Mary says

Ages 2-6. Would work better to read with a single child or small group.

Kelly says

A purple hippo. The Canned Bean TV Show. A talking tree. This is an adorable book! Very colorful and light-hearted. Many giggle moments.

L says

Nick Bruel should stick to writing the Bad Kitty series. This book highlights the seasons but was lackluster in comparison to his other works.
