



Quiet! There's a Canary in the Library

Don Freeman

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Cary knows what she would do if she were the librarian?she'd invite all the animals into the library and share her favorite books with lions, bears, peacocks, and monkeys. But the trouble is, not all animals get along with each other. That's where Cary's trouble begins in this lively story from the creator of *Corduroy*.

Quiet! There's a Canary in the Library Details

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Author : Don Freeman

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Amy Oelschlaeger says

Don Freeman did an excellent job writing a creative picture story book for children. Most children know animals are not allowed in the library, but Freeman creates a character Cary who imagined of a day where she would invite all animals to come to the library. Of course nothing good could come from this. The illustrations are simple, and the author only put a few worlds on each page. I enjoyed this book because it was a cute, easy, and creative read.

Rachel says

Whenever I think of Don Freeman, I always think of Corduroy the Bear (which I've somehow never read), although I did enjoy his book "Fly High, Fly Low". This book was adorable. Although a little long, I think it would be great for a toddler storytime on reading or the library. Cary is a young girl who loves going to the library and picking out books to read, recommended by Mrs. Curtis the librarian. One day, as she is reading a book about the zoo, she imagines that she is a librarian. The first thing she does is have a day that all the animals and birds can visit the zoo. My son loved naming all the different animals in this book and liked that they all liked to read too. Pandemonium almost breaks out when some mice come in the library, but the day is saved by a canary. After accidentally shouting, Cary realizes that she is still in the library and picks out a book to read at home. Recommended for ages 2-6, 4 stars.

Aletheia Ubben says

A quirky, light, clever story that captures the imaginings of a child. (Aletheia's review: I helped hold the book! However Mom was slower than usual at turning the pages...)

Christina Meier says

I LOVE THIS BOOK!!!! totally would give to my kids and their kids so they know about their librarian grandma.

Carrie says

LOL!!! Those of you who know my nickname at work is Carrie Canary will understand why this is so funny. A little red haired girl goes to the library every Saturday, and as she reads her book she dreams up the way she would run the library if she were in charge. The ending is absolutely perfect. Thanks to Sadie for leaving this precious book in my locker.

Jared White says

I grew up with the Corduroy books but I had never seen this one until today and I really enjoyed it. A little girl reads a book about a zoo while at her library and allows her imagination to take flight. She imagines she's the librarian and has a special day when just "animals and birds" can come to browse...but when you have that many animals in one place things can get a little out of hand. A very cute story and, though the pictures aren't excellent, they're fun.

Willow says

Don Freeman is such a great author/illustrator. His books are so filled with hope and positivity, but not in an over-the-top obnoxious kind of way. In this book, a little girl daydreams about what she would do if she were a librarian. Obviously, I love this because I have daydreamed about the same thing (even recently), and I also love this because of the humor and silliness. My daughter and I have read this book probably 50 times already and I only grabbed it from the used bookstore a few days ago.

Joan says

This caught my eye when I was in the library today so I grabbed it and read it. It is cute. A girl who loves the library goes in one Saturday morning and starts daydreaming an adventure in the library. It is cute and while dated in terms of clothing, isn't much dated otherwise....other than the bun on the female librarian....sigh. I likely wouldn't have used it for story time with so many newer titles available but I'd remember it for kids who just like to hang around the library or who are daydreamers.

Donna Mork says

A little girl enjoys the library. One day she imagines being the librarian and setting up a day where only animals are allowed. Things get out of hand in her imagination and she has to have the canary sing them all out of the library. She decides to check a book about birds out and "flies" home.

Dolly says

This is a fun book about a little girl imagining she ran the library and all the animals who would come and visit to read books. It's silly and fun, and has Don Freeman's cute illustrations. We really enjoyed reading this book together.

Karissa Kelly says

Quiet! There's a Canary in the Library is a story about a girl named Cary who goes to the library every Saturday. As she's reading her book, she imagines what she'd do if she was the librarian. First, she would have a animal and bird day. All the animals could come in and read whatever book they wanted. She'd let in a canary, lion, elephant, porcupine, mice, and many more animals. However, when the mice came in they scared the elephant which made the porcupine touch the lion who was extremely ticklish, so he began roaring. Then chaos took place. All the animals were going crazy. Not knowing what to do, Cary asked the Canary to help, so she sang a song. Cary yells for QUIET!, and all the animals listen and so does the boy sitting next her because she had accidentally said quiet out loud. Embarrassed, Cary goes and gets another book with a canary on it because she knows that's her true friend.

Quiet! There's a Canary in the Library was such a good book. Don Freeman writes and illustrates Cary and the animals so well that you get swept into the story and feel like you're there. I think this book is really cute and really helps develop an imagination.

I recommend reading this book in a classroom setting or just for fun. If you happen to be talking about libraries this could help students learn about the proper manners for a library.

Katie says

I thought this book was so cute and funny. It is about a little girl who is reading a book about a zoo at the library. She is sitting at a table with two boys, and as she is reading her imagination goes wild. She gets the idea to have a library for zoo animals. At first all of the animals are being quiet and reading like they should be. Then a few mouse run in, and they cause chaos. She is trying to get everything under control when the canary beings singing. All of the animals start listening to the canary sing, and they leave the zoo library. She accidentally talks out loud and says to be quiet, and one of the boys at the table says that he wasn't making any noise. She is very embarrassed, and she gets another book before she leave the library. I loved this book because it shows how awesome kid's imagination is, and it also teaches children the proper way to behave in a library.

Michelle says

Found this one while browsing the shelves at the Barnesville library when Kyla and Ian were babies. Lesser known Don freeman. A favorite.

Jayna says

All ages

A little girl imagines what it would be like to be a librarian and to have a bird and animal day at the library. At first everything is going well and all of the animals are behaving themselves, but after the arrival of a group of mice all of the animals are agitated. Luckily a canary sings to the animals, calming them down and

Cary tells them it is time to go home.

You could use this book for a story time about libraries or zoo animals. You could also talk to the children about what they dream of being when they grow up, just like the little girl in the story.

Rosa Cline says

Such a precious book! You can tell it was written a few years ago as it's not the 'same ole same ole' that most of the newer books are. Mr Freeman does a wonderful job on the storyline and the illustrations. A little girl goes to the library (which encourages children to go and enjoy the library) and visits with the nice librarian and then sits with a book with some other boys just enjoying being there. Her imagination takes off with her and she imagines she's the librarian and she has an animal and bird day inviting all animals there. The story goes through each zoo animal as they enter the library exposing the reader to all sorts of animals from lion, elephant, tiger, etc and at the end MICE!!! excitement pursues in the library and Cary helps to settle everyone down especially with the help of the singing canary. My 3 year old granddaughter really enjoyed this book with me.
