



# Spork

*Kyo Maclear , Isabelle Arsenault (Illustrator)*

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**Spork** Kyo Maclear , Isabelle Arsenault (Illustrator)

His mum is a spoon. His dad is a fork. And he's a bit of both. He's Spork!

Spork sticks out in the regimented world of the cutlery drawer. The spoons think he's too pointy, while the forks find him too round. He never gets chosen to be at the table at mealtimes until one day a very messy ... thing arrives in the kitchen who has never heard of cutlery customs. Will Spork finally find his place at the table?

This 'multi-cutlery' tale is a humorous and lively commentary on individuality and tolerance. Its high-spirited illustrations capture the experience and emotions of anyone who has ever wondered about their place in the world.

## Spork Details

Date : Published September 1st 2010 by Kids Can Press (first published 2010)

ISBN : 9781553377368

Author : Kyo Maclear , Isabelle Arsenault (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Fiction

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This is a sweet picture book about a child that doesn't fit in because he is made up of half of his mother and his father. Like some interracial, where they are the only one in the neighborhood like them, you can feel like you don't fit in.

And of course, there is a place for everyone, as evidence by the ending of this book.

Great book to teach about being different, and finding your place.

Thanks to Netgalley for making this book available for an honest review.

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### **Kathryn says**

I really wanted to love this book. I like the concept of showing a child who is a mix of both parents, with a twist--they're cutlery! When your parents are a fork and a spoon, you end up being a spork! I could see where bi-racial children might be a target audience here.

That said, I think this would only be useful in certain cases. I certainly hope that as a society we are getting to the point where a child of mixed races does not feel so left out all the time! :-( Some children who already feel very accepted might worry after they read Spork, wondering if people will end up treating them differently. But those facing challenges and discrimination might really enjoy Spork's story and feel cheered that he eventually finds a way to fit in.

Of course, it doesn't have to just be about race. I know many children struggle to fit in for a variety of reasons, and so Spork's story might also appeal to them.

The illustrations are kinda cool, kinda weird. I liked all the kitchen utensils. I did not like the blood-red splatters when the "new creature" moves in and starts messing up the place. It was kind of creepy, even if it was just supposed to be tomato sauce. I get that the new creature was supposed to be a bit scary, but I wish they had used a different color.

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### **Eve says**

I have a huge author crush on Kyo Maclear! This book is another favorite, just like *Virginia Wolf*. A children's book that deals with not fitting into social labels, it hit home personally as a biracial person. I would have loved to read something like this as a kid.

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### **Kaethe says**

June 26, 2016

April 13, 2014

You can read it as the straightforward story of a being who's a little different and doesn't fit in. You can also

read it as the story of finding acceptance with self and with society as a bi-racial being. You could extrapolate it on out as a story about anyone who contains two distinctly different traditions of any kind. But it's amusing on the most basic literal utensil level, which enables one to appreciate the others.

"Spork!" should be the Tick's new battle cry.

Library copy.

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## KC says

Well done story about diversity, acceptance, and individuality.

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## fatemeh motahari says

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## Dani - Perspective of a Writer says

*Check out more **Picture book reviews** @ *Perspective of a Writer...**

Spork has a spoon for a mom and a fork for a daddy. He tries to fit in but can't satisfy both the forks and spoons. He fights feelings of loneliness and exclusion as he is left in the silverware drawer. Will he ever have a use?

The art was very monotone which was not my favorite but at the same time fit the world of silverware. When the red splatters came I was very intrigued as was my nephew. The multi-media art style is not my favorite though it worked here. It had a sense of playfulness as well as structure.

I liked how time was taken to explain spork's situation, why he felt the way he did and how he tried to belong. I think my nephew was intrigued by spork's feelings and especially sat up when the baby came along!

I liked how relatable the story was to anyone who feels they don't belong and can't fit in. I'm not sure that the solution to the problem was presented in the story though I agree everyone has a place they can make a difference, the baby was a bit of a stretch to me...

The narration was quite good and seemed to fit the art style.

BOTTOM LINE: Fitting in explained simply and relatably.

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You can find this review and many others on my book blog @ Perspective of a Writer. See my picture book reviews in a special feature called Boo's Picture Gallery...

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## David Schaafsma says

I read Spork because I really like picture books written by Kyo Maclear and picture books illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault, and this seems to be a very popular one, but I like it less than others from both of them; for instance, their book Virginia Wolf.

This book is about a spork, the offspring of a spoon and fork. They refer to this as a book based on “multi-cutlery,” which I love, I admit it, but the rest of the book is pretty straightforwardly about tolerance for differences. Not quite edgy enough (or poetic/ethereal, on the other hand), for me.

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## ???? says

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## Tatiana says

This little fellow is a bit of both his mum, a spoon, and his dad, a fork: he's Spork! Myo Maclear's *Spork* is a cutlery ode to children of mixed ethnicities, highlighting how there is a place in the world for everyone. You just have to find it. I think it is important to help children explore how we are all different. Many books tackle this topic. What was refreshing about this one was that the characters were inanimate objects, so it can prompt a discussion on multi-racial families or it can be an example of the literary device of personification.

The illustrations are bold, but maybe not all the cutlery is as adorable as Spork himself. Nevertheless, I was left with a good feeling after reading this, and that doesn't always happen.

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## Jeremy says

This is another one of those: little so-and-so was different than all the other whatzits, he never fit in no matter how hard he tried, it made him sad, until one day his uniqueness proved to be useful, and suddenly he felt proud of his difference.

I know these books are for kids, I know the most important lessons are often simple and cliché, but for the LOVE OF GOD, it's been done! Almost 1/3 of the children's stories I read are this exact same story.

We get it, sometimes being different can be useful. But we have Rudolph, we have the Ugly Duckling, we

have so many existing stories that are superior to these new ones being constantly churned out.

Furthermore, I'm getting tired of this whole message that being different is good because you are useful to people. What about kids who are different in a way that isn't useful to everyone? Shouldn't we be teaching children their lives have value beyond their usefulness to these so-called "normal people"?

That's what set "The Terrible Thing that Happened to Barnaby Brocket" by John Boyne apart. The final revelation of the story wasn't that Barnaby finally became useful, he just learned to love who he was and left the haters behind.

Anyway, all that ranting aside, "Spork" was a mildly amusing take on the very tired formula I discussed above. I'm sure your child won't mind how utterly uninspired the story's conceit is.

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## Sammm says

*A digitized ARC of this book was provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.*

OMeffingG! This is the cutest book I received via NetGalley so far! So Glad I was approved a copy that I got to read it! 5000000000000000\*N-star if I could help it! So darn adorable!

I had no idea I'd be encountering Author Kyo Maclear again so soon! The first time I got to read her work was just a month ago, again, thanks to NetGalley: . I find it to be pretty awesome already (my review), but I'm happily surprised that I even like *Spork* a whole new level of MORE!!!! I think I just maybe be reading more Kyo Maclear's in the near future. =D

Onto the book itself. First of all, I HAVE to praise Illustrator Isabelle Arsenault's amazing artwork! I have never pictured utensils of the same kind possible of having SO MANY different CHARACTERISTICS! Such an incredible achievement to not make a bunch of spoons and forks to just look like a bunch of lifeless spoons and forks! lol *That* may sound weird, but I'll say this, I think Arsenault successfully personified the "characters"; I bought it immediately, and never for once viewed them as inanimate objects. I really saw a community, and I felt little Spork's loneliness of feeling left out.

(image source: *Spork* - Extras @ Maclear's official website)

The blurb sums up the story pretty nicely; it's honestly a straightforward plot, though I believe the symbolism and metaphor are easy to pick up while incorporated within the story in an elegant way. On the official site of the publisher (Kids Can Press), those are the keywords associated with this book:

- diversity
- embracing differences
- individuality
- standing out from the crowd
- tolerance

I think they are SPOT-ON. I think this truly is a great book, telling you that it really is OKAY to be unique! Kind of feel like every kid should be reading this as they grow up xDDD. Would also strongly recommend it to first-time parents, or scratch that, just parents (who care about the mental psyche of their kids), in general!

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