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Otis



Synopsis

The New York Times bestseller and official 2013 Jumpstart Read for the Record selection! New York Times bestselling author/artist Loren Long creates an unforgettable children's classic. Otis is a special tractor. He loves his farmer and he loves to work. And he loves the little calf in the next stall, whom he purrs to sleep with his soft motor. In fact, the two become great friends: they play in the fields, leap hay bales, and play ring-around-the-rosy by Mud Pond. But when Otis is replaced with the big yellow tractor, he is cast away behind the barn, unused, unnoticed . . . until the little calf gets stuck in Mud Pond. Then there is only one tractor — and it's not big or yellow — who can come to the rescue. It is little old Otis who saves his friend. It is Otis who saves the day. In a wonderful new palette, and in the tradition of classics like Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel and The Story of Ferdinand, Loren Long has crafted an unforgettable new story and character — celebrating the power of friendship and perseverance.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD840L (What's this?)

Series: Otis (Book 1)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Philomel Books; First Edition edition (September 22, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399252487

ISBN-13: 978-0399252488

Product Dimensions: 11.2 x 0.4 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 118 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #24,397 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Farm Life](#) #212 in [Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go](#) #649 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship](#)

Age Range: 3 - 5 years

Grade Level: Preschool - Kindergarten

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. PreSchool-Grade 2 **A** • Otis is a fun-loving tractor who roams the fields after a

hard day's work and plays in the haystacks. In the barn one night, his engine provides a gentle purr that helps a frightened young calf fall into a peaceful sleep. The two become inseparable. That is, until the farmer decides to upgrade and brings home a brand-new, shiny yellow tractor and relegates Otis to the weeds behind the building. Having outlived his usefulness, Otis just sits there, impervious to the calf's call to play. But when his friend gets stuck in Mud Pond and no one— not even the fire department— can pull her out, the feisty tractor revs his engine ("putt puff puttedy chuff") and saves the day. His heroism and concern for a friend are themes that will appeal to young readers. Long's gouache and pencil artwork is stunning with a red and cream main character against a sepia-toned monochromatic background. The overall effect is nostalgic and comforting as readers bond with the determined little tractor. In the end, Otis finds a place on the farm where his engine's soft purr can be put to good use. This satisfying conclusion that speaks of a place for everyone is sure to ring true to children. —Joan Kindig, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA

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****JUMPSTART'S 2013 READ FOR THE RECORD SELECTION!****

"There once was a friendly little tractor. His name was Otis, and every day Otis and his farmer worked together taking care of the farm they called home. Otis liked to work. Recalling his own childhood love for some classic picture books, Loren Long pays homage to the work of Robert Lawson and Virginia Lee Burton in OTIS. OTIS is the story of a boisterous and dependable little red tractor who (as was Mary Anne the steam shovel), is facing being replaced, and the young calf (visually reminiscent of the young Ferdinand) who comes to live at the farm and is comforted at night by the "soft putt puff puttedy chuff" that emanates from Otis's stall. Young readers will readily recognize a whole series of positive emotions depicted on the face of Otis as he works, plays, sleeps, teaches the calf to do a "hand"stand, and sits contemplatively under the tree on the hill (total shades of Ferdinand) alongside his young friend. Then there are the equally-clear expressions of negative feelings that well up when the new-and-improved giant tractor suddenly invades Otis's farm. Otis is unmercifully banished from his stall and consigned to a patch of weeds behind the barn. But when the calf accidentally gets herself stuck in Mud Pond (with an attendant cast of characters reminiscent of the crowd that observes Mary Anne digging the cellar for the new town hall), there is only one person...err...faithful friend and personified machine...who knows how to help the calf get herself unstuck. As with the cover art, Loren Long's illustrations throughout the first part of OTIS are soothing, being dominated by gentle browns, creams, and the deep cherry red of the little tractor. In

sharp contrast, the new tractor is a glaring and intrusive shade of yellow with sharp lines and a visage that gives off no hint of humanity inside. Fortunately, the calf's rescue causes Otis to once again be recognized as being of value. He is assigned a series of satisfying tasks around the farm and, having thus regained a good measure of contentment through being productive, "at the end of the day, Otis would just sit with his friend under the apple tree and watch the farm below." What makes OTIS extra-special is that on top of there being such a great interplay of text and illustration, on top of Loren Long's great use of figurative language and visual allusion, and on top of the important intergenerational theme, there is a high level of action and hijinx in the text and illustrations -- call it a "gross motor" book -- that will enthuse the most demanding members of any young audience. I'm just hoping that they are considering printing up some Otis teeshirts for those of us who are totally in love with this crazy little tractor dude and his bovine sidekick.

Loren Long wrote a good book for children.

This is a beautiful book especially for tractor lovers like us. A wonderful story with amazing illustrations. Among the multitude of children's books with splashy eye catching colours in the market, illustrations here are so soothing to the eye with such gorgeous detailing. This book has a lot to offer for a long time period to a child's developing mind. Would recommend for 3-7 yrs.

My three year old grandson loves this book and all Otis' books. This is what I read everyday before he goes down for a nap. Such a sweet story and the drawings are darling.

perfect

I love all of the Otis books

My son was checking out the whole Otis series at the Library and kept re-checking as long as we could. It was obvious this was a book series to own!

This is the second copy of Otis that we have purchased. My 4YO loved his last copy so much he wore it out. (Granted he also liked to use his as a chew toy when he was younger) We love this story. Great introduction to the lovely character of Otis, our favorite tractor. :)

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