



The Bear Who Wasn't There

LeUyen Pham

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This book is about Bear... so what happens when he doesn't show up on his page? Who will find him? Will it be Giraffe, who himself seems to always be in the wrong place at the wrong time, or Cow, or perhaps even the author herself?

One thing's for sure--it probably won't be Duck. Duck doesn't seem concerned that Bear is missing. In fact, he seems to be trying to steal the show for himself! Duck would much prefer that the reader pick up his own book, *The Duck Who Showed Up*. He even disguises himself as Bear in an attempt to fool the reader. But after pages and pages of Duck's antics and search-party chaos, Bear appears somewhere utterly unexpected. In fact, it looks like someone may have tried to get rid of him on purpose....

LeUyen Pham's *The Bear Who Wasn't There* takes readers a hilarious search for the missing title character.

The Bear Who Wasn't There Details

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Author : LeUyen Pham

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From Reader Review The Bear Who Wasn't There for online ebook

Marsha says

This picture book is a zany romp as the reader engages in an escalating search for the elusive titular ursine beast. Featuring an attention-hogging duck, an embarrassed giraffe, a pun-spouting hare, an outraged reptile, a plethora of other avians and one bewildered author and illustrator, this book is as amusing as it is original.

The game starts on the front cover where the aforementioned duck spoils the reader. This is one aggravated bird, determined for stardom like the Looney Toons Daffy Duck, and his commentary and antics are the linchpin of this crazy search.

It's quite simply a lark, a fun story livened with goofy illustrations to go along with its wandering prose. Kids will adore it and parents may get a kick out of it, too.

Maria Marshall says

I really enjoyed the kid humor and "behind the scenes" aspect of this book. Pham does an amazing job staying very cognizant of the child reader (as well as the adult). It contains elements reminiscent of DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS and CHLOE AND THE LION, where the interrupting, persistent duck attempts to persuade everyone that ducks are better than bears. After all, they show up for the book. The narrator even pulls the author into the fray. The ingenious humor doesn't stop with the story. Be sure to check out the end pages, cover, and back of the dust cover. Definitely a don't miss picture book, besides you have to see if they ever find the bear.

Barb Keltner says

Laugh out loud silliness!

Michael Fitzgerald says

Yet another of those books like Interrupting Chicken and Z Is for Moose. Ha ha. How many must we have? These are picture books that have been corrupted by cartoons, where this kind of thing is ubiquitous. (And yes, those who have seen the Chuck Jones *Duck Amuck* cartoon will long for the olden days.)

Cemeread says

(2-2.95 stars) This could possibly be a story time book. You must pay attention to the end pages of this book to get complete satisfaction. The title tells the story. As the reader continues through the story a duck wants it to be about him and other animals with dialogue balloons add comments, which don't always help the reader

in the search. Just when it looks like the bear has been found the author is pulled into the story to explain herself. This is a book of misleading silliness, but you must stick with it to the very end if you really want to see the bear.

(2-almost 3 stars because this one seems like it could get annoying if requested more than once and it really has no point.)

Nicola says

We loved it! Miss 3 adores interactive picture books. This is one that very actively breaks the 4th wall with the text involving conversations with the reader, characters, and author. There are gorgeous illustrations involving everything from bear footprints to follow, the DUCK!, and a dinosaur making a cameo performance. There are some clever word puns (Bear here? Bare hare!) that will go over younger kids heads but are fun as an adult and a good opportunity to talk about words that sound similar but have different meanings.

JoyAnn says

The premise was interesting. The illustrations were likable. My toddler didn't get it - the humor was definitely over her head but would probably be found entertaining by a kid audience older than her. But for me it just felt like the book never hit its peak. I wanted a bit more.

Katie says

We have been brought to this book under false pretenses. Duck knows how popular bear books are and he's using our weakness in hopes of earning a duck book.

We will pass silly signs, animals, and situations as we search for the missing bear. Find out what kind of madness can be made in the search for the BEAR WHO WASN'T THERE.

The narrator's text is large and perfect for a beginning reader.

Jennifer says

Two thumbs up from my little guy.

In the tradition of The Monster at the End of the Book, The Bear who Wasn't There encourages readers to interact with the book by deconstructing conventions of picture books. This was a very fun read aloud.

For those who would find it inappropriate, there is one page where an animal is surprised while in the bathroom. It is not portrayed distastefully. What child (or parent) hasn't been walked in on while in the bathroom? Kids will relate to it.

Barbara says

My friends and students know that I am rather fond of metafiction and am amused when the boundaries that separate readers from the text are removed. In this entertaining picture book that's precisely what happens as a Bear--the one about whom this book is supposed to be--has disappeared, and everyone is trying to find him. Well, maybe not everyone since a mallard duck is convinced that there are far too many books about bears being published and perhaps a book about a duck would be more interesting. As readers are led from one page to the next, even interrupting Giraffe as he is sitting on the toilet. The book even features word play as the animals confuse a boar with a bear, a pear with a bear, and the phrases "a bare hare" and "a bear here." The author even gets in on the action by slipping out from the pages and acknowledging that she drew a bear, but she has no idea about his whereabouts. As it turns out, the footprints on several of the book's pages lead to the end papers where a bear can be found. The concept for this cleverly-executed picture book is imaginative, particularly since it is carried out all the way through the book. I loved how some of the pages contain simple images while others are filled with several animal characters and seem crowded. Brilliant and delightful in every way! This one will be read repeatedly--and it should be!

Jasmine says

Slyly funny book about how bears get all the attention and people should really move on to the obvious next thing, ducks.

Lara says

Very silly book, definitely a sense of humor appealing to an average group of kids. For fans of the Z is for Moose and the like. I think I enjoyed Zebra and Moose's antics a little more, but still chuckled at good bit at the animals in this one too. And I enjoyed the duck and his own literary efforts in this too. Because ducks are reliable, after all.

If you're reading this aloud, be prepared with lots of silly voices - the characters talk to the narrator a good bit as he searches for the bear. Would take some practice and planning, but could be a fun story time book too.

Gary says

Oh man this is hilarious!

Love it.

Selena says

Funny book for kids who have a good sense of humor. But there isn't a kid around who won't laugh at page 11. If you read this out loud, get your voices ready.

Christina Baker says

I have to admit, I have a weak spot for books that are self-aware. It cracks me up when a book calls itself a book and laughs about it. Like *The Bear Who Wasn't There*. You spend the whole book searching for the bear the book is supposed to be about (including hunting down the author to see what she has to say about the situation) and hilarity ensues. I found the art clever, and while it's one of those books that's a little clunky to read aloud (word bubbles and such), it's well worth it. My kids were laughing out loud. As was I, actually. And I think the octopus gets the best line in the book. Now you're curious, aren't you?
