



Teddy & Co.

Cynthia Voigt

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Teddy & Co. Cynthia Voigt

Teddy is a thinking kind of bear. Of all his friends, he does the most wondering. He lives with a ragtag group of lost toys—a very hungry snake, an elephant who likes to bake, two charmingly silly pigs, and a reclusive penguin—and they all bump along happily together. But their peaceful world gets shaken up when *new* toys arrive—first a rabbit, who is not as soft and floppy as he looks, and then a beautiful doll with royal ambitions. Will the newcomers learn to fit into the community? Or will the community be forever changed by them? As Teddy the philosopher would answer: *Yes*.

Teddy & Co. Details

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Author : Cynthia Voigt

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Genre : Childrens, Middle Grade, Fantasy, Chapter Books, Animals

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From Reader Review Teddy & Co. for online ebook

Beckie says

This was a recommended children's book from the local library. To be honest, the cover drew me in and for some reason I was thinking the author was a well-known adult author, so I figured I'd give it a go. With very few illustrations in this nearly 200 page book, I was disappointed. The illustration on the cover is what caused me to grab the book in the first place and sadly, those illustrations are better than the story. So many times I wanted to put this book down and not finish it but I never in my life have started a book and not finished it so I pushed on. This book is most likely written for 8-12 year olds but even as an adult, there were questions I KNOW kids would be asking.

We open on what we later find out to be an island and characters just appear with little to no introduction or back story. We have no clue why these toys are on this island or how they got there. The main character of this little lot is a stuffed bear with no legs and has to be pushed around in a wagon by his friends. The book goes through several days with these characters doing mundane things; you learn Bear is a thinker and quite smart actually, there is a standoffish penguin who just wants to be alone, a worry wart pig, a smaller pig who's adventurous, an elephant baker who also takes care of the bear and a snake who loves to eat.

Suddenly one day 2 new characters just appear; no one asks why or how they came to be there. First a lazy bunny arrives and he continually attempts to pester the penguin and a day later a doll arrives who is nothing short of a dictator and asserts herself as queen immediately making ridiculous demands and rules.

The only redeeming factor of this book and the reason I gave it a 2 star rating instead of 1, was because the last several chapters (20 to 30 pages) were the best part of the book. Those pages alone should have been the story. It would have made a great picture book with the story of Bear's party being planned and carried out and should have been the only story we knew. I felt very strongly the rest of the book was literally just filler which is sad because that story of Bear's party was magical. The lessons of a "disabled" bear were great and I think important for the younger audience but if I was left asking quite a few questions and frustrated by the book as much as I was as an adult, I can't imagine how much more it would be for kids. Very disappointing unfortunately.

Bonnie Lambourn says

I see some people are classifying this as MG, but it reads to me as an early chapter book. Checking for clarity, I am correct... it is listed for: 7 - 10 years; Grade Level: 2 - 5. MG are 8-12. That might not seem like a huge leap, but within those few years are a wide range of development from child to child.

Teddy & Co. is long enough to satisfy that young reader just getting into what they see as real chapter books, with few pictures, but the language is gentle, the story appeal is for the quiet sensitive child who still has their heart in the world of playing with toys - knowing they have a real life [even if a child's hand planned out their world]. This reader might include one who reads well and is younger, or one who is taking their time to become fluent in reading. Cynthia Voigt's writing voice is perfect here, as it is the voice of a young child inside of each character. So even that Teddy is a thinker, he is still a beginning thinker. Even though Umpah is a baker, he really only can make muffins - though expertly. Zia still enjoys housework. Prinny is still excited about everything. Clara the Queen is still learning how to be a queen, and how to be in a group. Tired Mr. B, Peng who are both shown as even more limited characters lend themselves, however, to

introspection as to their greater depth of hidden emotion by Teddy.

One thing Voigt has managed to achieve so subtly is acceptance of the differences of each character and their necessary place in this world. She shows it by having Teddy with no legs, and how he gets around, his internal struggles at times. She shows it with Sid who has no legs or arms, because he is a snake. Through how Sid and Umpah meet one another's needs for being appreciated, and other pairings as well, and in how she shows the characters naturally working things out in ways that work for everyone.

This is not the knock down adventure some people are looking for, but it is the book every child and parent should read as a foundation for life, before things become wild and out of hand.

Rachel says

I love Cynthia Voigt's young adult books, so was excited to see a children's book by her. But I didn't like the book at all, and would not have liked it when I was a child. It's old-fashioned, and not in a good way. Toys, mostly stuffed animals, live on an island, with no past and no explanation of how they get muffin ingredients or building materials. The mama stuffed pig always frets about the child and just loves to clean house. Each episode seems to have a lesson for the reader, but they seemed, well, lame. I dragged myself through it, hoping it would get better, but no.

♠? Tabi ♠? says

THIS BOOK WAS SO FRIGGING CUTE!!!

While I am not one to normally frequent the children's section at my library, I do drop in from time to time. This cover caught my eye from a display rack, and I simply couldn't resist it! And such an adorable cover proved to hold such a lovely, quaint little story. There is no true plot to it, just a brief look at the lives of a group of toys who live on an island.

So even if you have lil' ones in your life or not, do yourself a favor and read this.

Rashika (is tired) says

*****This review has also been posted on Xpresso Reads**

Teddy & Co immediately caught my attention when I saw it being compared to works by A. A. Milne and Kate DiCamillo. Up to this point I had read nothing by Cynthia Voigt (even the famous Tillerman Cycle books) but after reading Teddy & Co I can see what the hype is all about.

Teddy & Co is SUCH a thought provoking book and I had so much fun reading it. I am going to sound so much like a lit major right now and forgive me but I love that books like Teddy & Co exist and allow young kids to engage with the familiar in a fantastical setting.

Teddy is a wonderful "thinking kind of bear". He loves to go on adventures and loves pondering the what ifs of the world and pushing his friends to think outside of the box. He also needs to be pulled around in a wheelbarrow but that doesn't stop him from having new experiences and learning how to swim.

The structure of the book is a little interesting in that there is no overarching plot arc but there are little stories and those little stories say so much about communities, friends and stepping outside of your comfort zone.

Teddy & Co is a fantastic read for kids (and anyone else who likes to read kid-lit) and is destined to become a classic in the veins of *The Velveteen Rabbit*.

Note that I received an advanced copy of this book for review.

Susanna says

L'isola dei giocattoli perduti è un bellissimo libro per bambini. La storia racconta le avventure di Teddy e dei suoi amici. Teddy è un piccolo orso senza gambe che per potersi muovere ha bisogno di un carretto che deve essere trainato da Umpah, l'elefante, che è sempre pronto ad aiutarlo. Teddy anche se non può camminare, viaggia con il pensiero ed infatti è sempre pieno di idee e pronto a spronare i suoi amici. Teddy ha una gran voglia di esplorazione e la trasmette anche agli altri che pur avendo le gambe, sono diventati un pò pigri e un pò paurosi. È un bel libro che parla di disabilità e di amicizia, di come bisogna sempre cercare di aiutarsi e aiutare, e dove si impara a convivere insieme nonostante difetti fisici o caratteriali. Ma è anche una sorta di gioco di ruoli dove i bambini possono immedesimarsi nei personaggi a seconda di come si sentono e trovare il loro posto in quel gruppo di personaggi che poi costituiscono una mini società. Valore aggiunto le illustrazioni di Fabio Sardo, anche se poche sono comunque molto belle.

Hanna Fogel says

Very sweet early chapter book with a classic feel.

Z says

A sweet and simple chapter book sure to charm young readers. Almost reminiscent of Winnie the Pooh, but still special in its own way.

Tara says

This review also posted on kissthebook.blogspot.com

Teddy is a brown teddy bear who lost his legs long ago and now moves about via a red wagon pushed by his friends, Umpah (an elephant who loves to bake) or Sid (a snake who loves to eat). Others in the neighborhood include Zia and Prinny (pigs), and Peng (an unsociable but well beloved wooden penguin).

The neighborhood is calm and everyone gets along while they have a variety of fun but not-too-exciting adventures. When new toys mysteriously arrive on their island--a bunny and a beautiful doll who hopes to be queen--the friends will have to learn how to adjust and become a different, and perhaps better, community than before.

This is a story in chapters in the tradition of the Velveteen Rabbit or Corduroy. The main characters are toys, but they are completely sentient beings with fantastic personalities and the themes are simple, sweet, and as non-threatening as one could hope to find. The disconnect lies with the characters and plot (which will be appealing to younger readers) and the reading level (which is upper elementary, at least). As such, this is the perfect book for elementary teachers to read aloud to their students (and they should!), or for grandparents to buy for their grandkids. Young readers who will love a book like this will likely find it a little too difficult to read on their own.

Stefanie Delinois says

I just didn't really like this book. Nothing was horrible about it, I just really did not enjoy it. The writing felt choppy. I read this book aloud to our 4 yr old, and it seemed confusing to discern who was always speaking. There was no real plot. The book felt like it was just dragging. Also, as the mother of daughters, I am pretty careful about body shaming in literature. There were times that I skipped sentences because the mother pig was probably round because of all the ice cream she ate, or the bunny's ruff didn't fit around teddy because his neck was too fat. I realize this is a pretty nuanced perspective, I just don't like when character's comment on other character's appearance and judge it.

Beverly says

Even though I enjoyed this cute story of talking stuffed animals and dolls, I couldn't help wondering about things that just suddenly appeared, like the doll Clara's "palace," the palace's furnishings, and how did Mr. B and the doll just suddenly appear on the island? How did they get there? Where did they come from? These questions were not answered in the story.

Stefanie says

Solid five stars, so simple and sweet it was great

Valentina says

Come può essere considerato un libro per bambini? ho faticato a terminare questa lettura, un libro troppo noioso, che racconta le avventure (??!) di un gruppo di amici di pezza o meglio il trascorrere lento e triste di ogni loro giornata, dove anche le cose più divertenti come imparare a nuotare vengono descritte con un'aurea sempre molto cupa. Non credo possa piacere ad un bambino, a mia figlia è piaciuto poco, salva solo il povero Teddy costretto a dipendere dagli altri perché per chissà quale ragione si ritrova senza arti inferiori. Unico elogio da parte mia va all' illustratore: disegni romantici e delicati che mi rievocano un'epoca lontana.

Joy Lane says

Rudolph & the Island of Misfit Toys meets Winnie the Pooh...

When children "pretend and do role play" things just appear to make their role play imaginative. I believe this book is just that and nothing more. It's told in short chapters, almost like a series of ER books. It is AR level 4.5 and 4 pts, but it is written to appeal to K-3rd grade.

It has been given a low rating from Goodreaders for the imaginative quality that is missed (and take this book literally.) I'm giving it 5 stars, but it will appeal to those who have a high reading level but are in the lower grades.

Lupe says

Ugh. I wanted to like this book but alas, I could not. This book wants to be like Winnie the Pooh but it felt forced and rushed. I just waited for it to end.
