



The Good for Nothing Button

Charise Mericle Harper , Mo Willems

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Yellow Bird has a button. It does . . . nothing! It is a good for nothing button. Red Bird and Blue Bird are excited to try the button. But when they press it, they discover that the button makes them happy. Happy is something! A flabbergasted Yellow Bird insists the button does nothing. But it sure does seem to be making him mad. Mad is something!

The hilarious debate that follows takes readers on an emotional roller coaster that pokes at the power of imaginative play.

The Good for Nothing Button Details

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Author : Charise Mericle Harper , Mo Willems

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From Reader Review The Good for Nothing Button for online ebook

Leslie says

Theodore Geisel Award Winner 2017

What a fun book! It's the second in the Elephant & Piggie Like Reading Series and it feels very much like a Mo Willems book. Great illustrations, fun story. I'm sure it will be a hit with young readers and it would make a great discussion for what kids think their SOMETHING-est is!

Highly recommend this one.

Dianna says

My four-year-old LOVED this book and talks about it all the time. Of the books in the new Elephant and Piggie spin-off series, this is the most like the original Elephant and Piggie books by a long shot.

Natalie Pietro says

My kids laughed so hard at this book. They were fighting over who got to hold this book so they would have a clear view of all the funny words and pictures. Much fun.

GalindoLibrarian says

A gem. For fans of Elephant & Piggie. LOL for all ages.

Judy says

This book is a hoot! Fans of Elephant and Piggie will enjoy this humorous story of three birds who react over the pushing of a button--that does nothing...or does it? Introduced by none other than Elephant and Piggie, the story is enjoyed by them as well, and it leads Elephant into looking for his own button to push. Wonder where he will find one? Read and find out! A great book for early readers.

Heidi says

Funny plot, cute illustrations. Variety of emotions makes it fun to read out loud.

Earl says

In the third offering in the Elephant & Piggie Like Reading! series, we meet three friends and their different reactions to a button. My words will not bring justice to how fun this book is. I can just picture how many giggling kids there will be when reading this!

Michele Knott says

Made me giggle just like when I read Elephant and Piggie. Another winner for the new Elephant and Piggie Like Reading series.

Jillian Heise says

I'm so glad Elephant & Piggie aren't completely gone, and that other voices are getting to join in the fun!! Adorable and funny! Could be great for tying to discussions on emotions.

Gail says

Love this new reader! ?

Carrie Gelson says

Brilliant!

Tasha says

Part of the Elephant and Piggie Like Reading series, this early reader is a philosophical joy. Yellow Bird has a button that does absolutely nothing, or does it? He shows it to Red Bird and Blue Bird. When Blue Bird tries the button, it surprises him. And that's not nothing! It doesn't surprise Red Bird, which makes Blue Bird sad, also not nothing. Then Yellow Bird gets angry at their responses, which is also not nothing. Soon the button can make them do lots of things, even get funny and silly. Perhaps the button does everything?

Harper has created a wonderful mix of humor and philosophy in this early reader. Done with just the right jaunty humor and wild zaniness, the book moves at a fast pace towards its philosophical conclusion. The ties to Elephant and Piggie are clear and this feels like a natural extension of their humor and attitude, making it exactly the right kind of book for this series.

The illustrations are bright and simple. Done with similar speech bubbles to Elephant and Piggie, they convey the emotions of the birds clearly, something that is very important in this book in particular.

A zingy riot of an early reader, this one is a winner. Appropriate for ages 5-7.

Becky says

First sentence: Hey, look! It's Yellow Bird. Hi, Yellow Bird. Look what I have. WOW! Wowee! Wow! Wow! I cannot believe it! What is it? It is a BUTTON. A red button. Red is my favorite! What does it do? NOTHING! Nothing?

Premise/plot: Gerald and Piggie are getting ready to read another book together: The Good for Nothing Button. (Elephant and Piggie star in the first few pages and the last few pages of this one.) Three birds (Yellow Bird, Blue Bird, Red Bird) try to decide what a button does--if anything. Will these three agree? Will they agree to disagree? Can they ever decide what qualifies as "something" and what qualifies as "nothing"? Will readers?!

My thoughts: I liked it. I really love Gerald and Piggie. I miss them so much. I do wish their series was continuing on. That being said, if I can't have a full early reader book starring my favorite friends, I suppose I'll make do with these teasing intros.

The text was satisfying, but, for me the illustrations were not. The dialogue worked for me--lots of bickering, lots of emotion. The speech bubbles kept the plot moving really quickly.

Eugene says

A subtle satire of millennial pile-on culture, device addiction, and the panopticon inherent in the internet of things, this dense page turner is like a Black Mirror episode written by Samuel Beckett. Stars Red Bird, Yellow Bird, and Blue bird; introduced by Elephant and Piggie.

From the jacket copy: "Yellow Bird has a button. And it does . . . NOTHING! But when Red Bird and Blue Bird press the button. it does . . . SOMETHING!"

Matt says

Mo Willems has fostered a love of reading in the minds for many over the years. Now, there is a branch-off series full of the same emotion and easy to read words between the covers, with this one written by Charisse Mericle Harper. Yellow Bird has a wonderful new toy, a button that does nothing. That's fine, until Red and Blue Bird find much joy in pressing this button, which is surely something. Poking fun at Yellow Bird for falsely advertising this button, they laugh and giggle when they press the button. This leaves Yellow Bird with a great deal of anger, yet another thing the button seems to do. So, this useless button serves a great purpose and helps to create an emotional rollercoaster for the young reader as they witness the evolution of this button's importance. Neo is full of emotions and can go from one to the other in the blink of an eye. I have found that whatever his feelings, sitting down to a good book or two can regulate better than any time

alone (for us both). I hope others will find this book and take the time to discover its wonders, sharing it with a young reader as well.
