



## Owly, Vol. 2: Just a Little Blue

*Andy Runton*

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## **Owly, Vol. 2: Just a Little Blue** Andy Runton

Owly is a kind-hearted little owl who knows what it means to be human.

The second graphic novel in the breakout, all-ages series follows Owly as he learns that sometimes you have to make sacrifices for things that are important, especially friendship.

Relying on a mixture of symbols and expressions, Andy Runton's animated and heartwarming style makes Owly a perfect read for everyone.

## **Owly, Vol. 2: Just a Little Blue Details**

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Author : Andy Runton

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## **From Reader Review Owly, Vol. 2: Just a Little Blue for online ebook**

### **Christopher says**

I'm becoming evangelical about Owly. Volume 2 is all about charity. Owly sees a family of bluebirds who live in a hollow old tree. When Owly and Wormy try to make friends, the father bluebird harasses them and tells them to leave. Owly discovers a campaign to build birdhouses for bluebirds and decides to sacrifice their wheelbarrow to provide wood for a house.

This idea of giving up some luxury of yours to help others in need, even - especially - when those you are helping greet you only with abuse, strikes me as the heart of true charity. I don't claim that I am always there, or I'm there very often. But have seen this in my father's work in homeless shelters and soup kitchens. I've seen it in the Doctors Without Borders willing to go into war zones to provide basic medical care.

Owly is such a fundamentally kind, gentle, and good person. I'm glad to share such a role-model with my daughter (and she loves the books).

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### **Keelin says**

Genre: Sci-fi/Fantasy

Awards: None.

Grade level: K-2.

I absolutely love the Owly books and know my students would enjoy them just as much as I do. The Owly books allow the students to really use their imagination because there are no words throughout the book. However, it is easy for students to follow Owly along his journey and relate to him. In this particular book Owly has to make sacrifices and work at things, like friendship. These are both important lessons I hope to instill in my students. After reading the graphic novel I would have the students create their own short graphic novel about a time they had to make a sacrifice. I chose to do this lesson with this book so the students can reflect on these moments of sacrifice in their own life and I can always make it a teachable moment by reminding them that sacrifice can be a good thing.

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### **Jon(athan) Nakapalau says**

Sometimes even friends can have a misunderstanding...but Owly teaches young children to always stay positive and forgive someone even if they don't understand you.

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### **Eden says**

Owly and the worm try to help the blue birds that have made a nest in a tree near them, but the male blue bird wants nothing to do with them. He even attacks them after they built a home just for him and his family. But one night it gets so windy and is raining so much, the tree begins to break and fall. Owly and the worm

rush to help the blue bird family.

This one was also really sweet and I really love Owly and his friend. I definitely want to read the other books in this series.

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### **Courtney Dyer says**

In volume 2 of Andy Runton's charming wordless graphic novel series, *Owly, Vol 2: Just a Little Blue*, we continue to follow the adventures of Owly and his best friend Wormy as they learn an important life lesson: sometimes acts of kindness aren't received well by others. Don't give up. Keep working at it if it's important.

In this book, Owly and Wormy build a birdhouse for the bluebird family, but they don't move in... in fact, the daddy bird tries to attack them. Then, one stormy day, the bluebird family's tree is falling down and they need help. Will Owly and Wormy forgive them and help out?

The illustrations follow Runton's whimsical, animated style that perfectly capture the characters' emotions and bring the story to life. Through his framed images, a few sound words, and dialogue-like representations, the reader is instantly drawn in. He has a true gift for characterization!

Another adorable, kind-hearted story about Owly and his best friend Wormy! Runton's love for birds, animals, and nature is evident throughout the story. It follows themes of friendship and compassion as Owly and Wormy try to help the bluebird family, but their gesture of kindness isn't received well in the beginning. This story is perfect for all age levels as even the youngest of readers can easily understand what is going on. As a teacher, this book is perfect for introducing young children to skills such as "reading the pictures" and for teaching older children skills like inferencing. I definitely recommend this series and think all elementary classrooms should have a set of these in their classroom library... kids will fall in love with these!

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### **Kathryn says**

What a sweet little story! One of the reviewers on the back cover said reading *Owly* is like a literary version of a HUG and I think that is a great way of describing it. Very fast read, very cute characters, and a thoughtful, heartwarming plot. I only give four stars because in a few places I did find the story a little hard to follow just based on the pictures, but maybe that was just me.

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### **Jesse says**

This was incredibly cute! I had several "awww" moments. I think the idea of an all-ages book is very interesting. For the most part, this juvenile graphic novel adheres to that goal, though it does utilize text a few times throughout. I don't believe it's fully necessary to understand the words, though. Someone only following the story through the pictures would still understand what direction the story was heading in. I found I didn't enjoy this graphic novel as much as I do those with words and illustrations, but I believe that's

a personal preference developed from years of trying to put the pictures in order on Spanish exams. Very cute, though, and I would recommend this for pre-readers or early readers who are trying to grasp the parts of a story, or the idea of one thing happening after another.

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### **Katja says**

Simply adorable! Probably the sweetest comic I've ever read.

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### **James Marsh says**

Disclaimer: I am a married 32 year old male with no children.

I have been an avid fan of comic books for most of my life, but the abundance of violence, sex and other unsavory material in the genre has scared me away for quite a while. I've been searching for all ages appropriate graphic novels to share with my nieces, nephew and to enjoy myself. I'd heard positive things about Owly and decided to give it a shot.

The art is charming and the nearly wordless but surprisingly involved story warms one's heart as it illustrates to children the importance of self sacrifice and not giving in to one's initial impressions. I would heartily recommend it to anyone who wants to please a young audience (I did share it with a friend's young ones after I had read it) and of course even us adults will find it an innocent, enlightening tale.

I will be looking for more Owly when I have my own kids to share it with.

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### **Maggie says**

super cute

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### **MissAnnThrope says**

*31 January 2013*

*Owly, Vol. 2: Just a Little Blue* follows the oh-so-generous Owly on another adventure to make friends. He attempts to befriend a bluebird by building the bird and his family a brand new house. Naturally mistrusting of the "big bad owl," the bird shoos Owly and Wormy away. Poor Owly always being misjudged. But when catastrophe strikes the bluebird family, our little heroes are there to save the day.

While I really enjoyed this heartwarming story, it left me feeling really, really bad for how much Owly sacrifices to no end. I'd like to see something nice be done for him. I love how sweet these stories are. I'm reading this series while sick in bed and I'm finding the books really lift my spirits. I love Owly.

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## **Justyn Rampa says**

This was not my favorite Owly book.

I found it to be a bit long and slightly hard to follow given the limited amount of expression Any Runton uses. Ultimately, it is a great story about helping your neighbor but thematically, there were some holes for me. One, if someone doesn't want your help...don't give it to them. The very angry and proud Papa Blue Bird seriously didn't want Owly's help. Move on Owly, not everyone is going to be your friend and that's okay.

Ultimately, Owly saves the day...like he do, but the overall narrative was actually a bit clunky and hard to follow especially compared to all the other Owly books.

Still, it provides wonderful illustrations, heart warming characters, and a chance for kids to work on understanding a story with only visuals.

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## **Ann says**

Probably five stars for enjoyment and four for overall execution.

Owly is such a cute and sweet little owl! Owly makes friends with everyone, and has a huge, warm heart. "Just a Little Blue" is filled with warmth and action, as Owly tries to make a birdhouse for the bluebird family that lives near by. Characters must overcome preconceived notions about each other, and not only learn how to offer help, but how to accept it as well.

While there were a few times the drawings were a little vague (mostly just on a few expressions though) it was a highly entertaining book and very sweet!

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## **Hannah Kersting says**

This graphic novel, written by Andy Runton is perfect for little children. The book has soft pictures and the author used dialogue bubbles to use some written language. The story is very precious. It's about a young bird who is lonely and is trying to find friends. He is supported by his friend "wormy" who is going to help Owly look for some friends. The story depicts, through images, the adventure that the two friends take to find a new friend. They finally come across a little baby bird who is eating some birdseed. They decide to make friends with him, but then momma bird sees the owl playing with her son. Of course she gets defensive because she knows that owls can eat birds. She doesn't want Owly to play with her son. Owly and Wormy decide to help the little birds build a house so that momma bird will let them play with her son. They are both very giving and put a lot of effort into building the little birds house. The only thing they think that will show momma bird that they are nice is to paint a small little welcome sign over the door of the birdhouse, but momma bird still doesnt like them. The next time they see the birdhouse, they see the welcome sign on the door, they both get really sad, and they scoop up the bird house and take it was to owly's tree and lock it away. The birds realize that they need the house that Owly and Wormy built. They are cold and wet from the rain and they would love to have a warm house to sleep in for the night. That night a huge storm comes and

knocks all of the birds out of the nest (the three baby birds). Owly of course, being the good friend that he is, decides to go and help all of the birds find their babies. The story ends with Owly only finding two of the baby birds from the nest. The book ends there and keeps children hanging on the edge of their seat. Although there are very few words, the book is drawn perfectly and any child would be able to understand the story. The meaning behind the story is beautiful and that is, the power of friendship. Owly is nothing but a friend and all he wants to do is find someone that will be a friend to him. This book is absolutely adorable and this series of books written by Andy Runton are ones that should definitely be in a school classroom.

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## **Chris says**

My first thought was to say the Owly tales illustrate the power of optimism, but that's true only so much as Owly's attitude motivates his actions. Really, this is a series of stories about unrelenting giving, compassion, and friendship. Very simple, wordless stories with adorable art (I say adorable as someone who doesn't do saccharine or cloying). Following the sequence and understanding all the messages implied by the symbols that stand in for words when dialogue occurs can still be a sophisticated reading task, but with the right experience or older helper, these are great for kids of all ages.

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