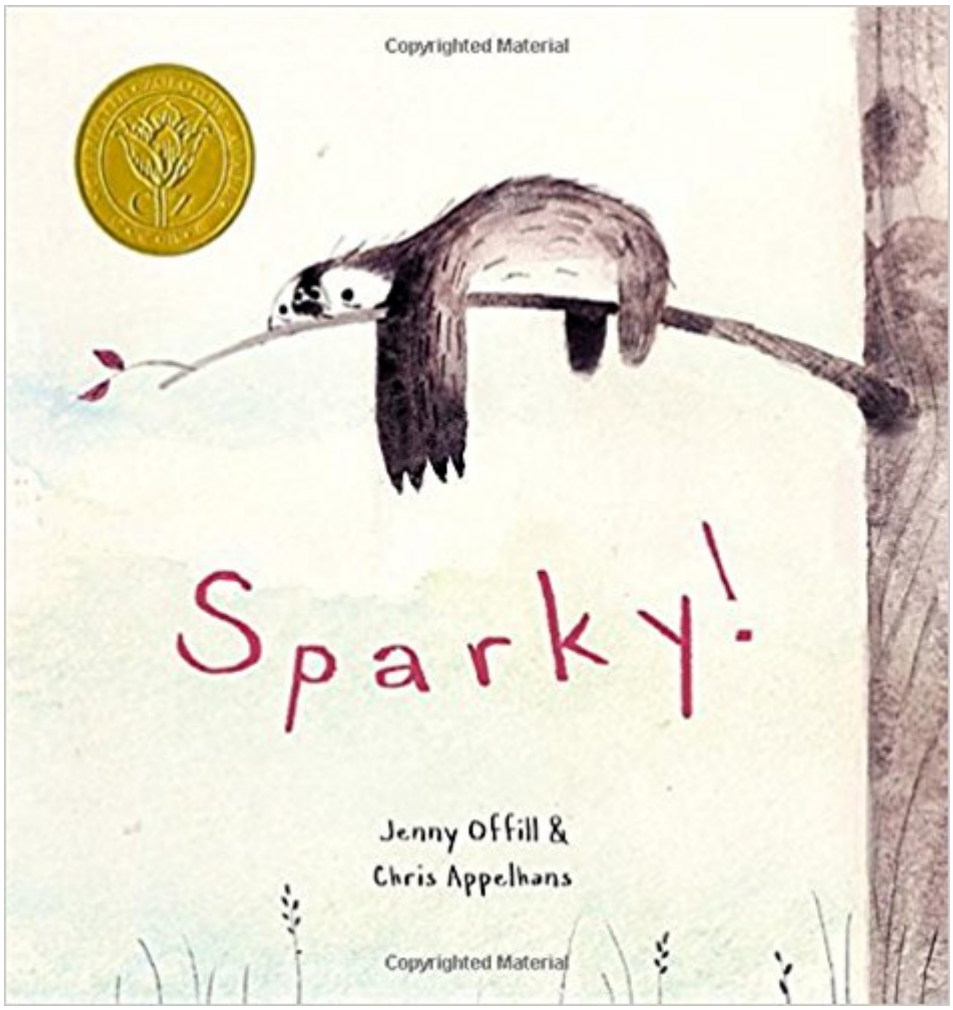
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Sparky!



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Synopsis

The ingenious author of 17 Things I'm Not Allowed to Do Anymore and a brilliant illustrator and production designer of the Coraline movie have created a hilarious, touching picture book perfect for young animal lovers. Like the Caldecott Medal-winning Officer Buckle and Gloria, Sparky stars a pet who has more to offer than meets the eye. When our narrator orders a sloth through the mail, the creature that arrives isn't good at tricks or hide-and-seek . . . or much of anything. Still, there's something about Sparky that is irresistible.Winner of the Charlotte Zolotow Award

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD520L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Schwartz & Wade (March 11, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375870237

ISBN-13: 978-0375870231

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.4 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 142 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #14,402 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mammals #32 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Animals > Pets #109 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 1Ã¢â ¬â •A persistent girl asks for a pet until her mother finally relents with a caveat: "You can have any pet you want as long as it doesn't need to be walked or bathed or fed." The school librarian leads the girl to the S volume of the animal encyclopedia, where she discovers the sloth, a creature that barely moves. When her sloth arrives, she names him Sparky, a moniker that suggests energy (unlike her new pet). The girl attempts to impose many un-sloth-like qualities on the quiet creature, playing several games with him that he is bound to lose (except for "Statue") and planning an elaborate Trained Sloth Extravaganza that is hardly eventful. While there are several attempts at humor in the text, ultimately this book is a little sad. The girl only reluctantly accepts that her pet sloth basically does nothing, and rather than embracing this quality, she finishes the book by

starting a game of tag with her pet. Well-rendered watercolor and pencil illustrations in subdued hues of brown, green, and red depict a slight, spritely girl and an inexpressive sloth, and therein lies another problem with this book. Sloths are cute and huggable, but this one merely looks lost until the last page when he finally smiles a bit. For children interested in sloths, Lucy Cooke's A Little Book of Sloth (S & S, 2013) is a much better choice, and it includes a reminder that "sloths belong in the wild and should never be kept as pets." Additional.Ã¢â ¬â •Teri Markson, Los Angeles Public Library

Starred Review Heres how it starts:Ã¢â ¬Å“I wanted a pet.Ã¢â ¬Â• The narratorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s mother agrees, Ã¢â ¬Å“as long as it doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t need to be walked, bathed or fed.Ã¢â ¬Â• A librarian helps narrow her choices to a field of one: Ã¢â ¬Å“Sloths are the laziest animal in the world.Ã¢â ¬Â• After its arrival, our narrator hopefully names her sloth Sparky, but alas, he is as described in books. SparkyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s owner doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t mind too much until provoked by ÃƒÂ berachiever Mary Potts, who informs her that not only does she have a cat that dances but also a parrot that knows 20 words. WhatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a sloth owner to do? Put on a show, promising Ã¢â ¬Å“countless tricksÃ¢â ¬Â• from Sparky! One of the wonderful things about this book is that there is no surprise ending. A sloth is a sloth. The show is as deadly dull as one wouldÃ¢â ¬â •or shouldÃ¢â ¬â •expect. But from that sad little event comes a moment of love so pure and elemental that it will affect readers of all ages. Offill and Appelhans have created quite a perfect package. The text is spare yet amusing and full of important messages presented in the most subtle of ways. Appelhans, whose career up to now has been in animated films such as Coraline, is a revelation. The enticing watercolor-and-pencil art, mostly in soft shades of browns and burgundies and featuring the artistÃ¢â ¬â„¢s hand lettering, captures a range of emotions, at least from the humans. Furry, flat-nosed Sparky, on the other hand, just is, and that, as it turns out, is enough. Preschool-Grade 1. --Ilene Cooper

Bought this book for my friend, whose whole family is a fan of sloths. She read the book to her kids and everyone really enjoyed it. Both the storyline and artwork is lovely and adorable. Makes a great gift for sloth lovers of any age!

Sloths are popular topics of books for my two grandsons to whom I gave each their own stuffed sloth.

Sweet book!! We got this for our sloth loving little girl, its perfect!

This is such a cute book. The illustrations and the story are so unique and sweet. My kids and I had checked this book out at our local public library and knew we had to have this in our personal library! My 4 and 6 year old loved it, but I could also see older kids and adults enjoying the book as well.

I call my bf a sloth. He is kind of slow sometimes but it makes him cute. I bought this book so that we could read it together.

Absolutely adorable. The art and story are wonderful.

I purchased this book for my newborn niece for Christmas. Well, I really purchased it for her mom who is obsessed with Sloths. The book arrived promptly and in excellent condition.I sat down myself to read this book before I handed it over and I thoroughly enjoyed it. The story is so sweet and smart and the illustrations were so adorable.I can't wait to put this on my registry once I am ready for my bundle of joy!

The illustrations in this book are absolutely adorable. I just wanted to reach in and grab that little sloth and hug him! The story is cute and funny, too. I've given this book as a gift several times and each time it was well-received.

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