



Scaredy Squirrel

Mélanie Watt

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Scaredy Squirrel never leaves his nut tree. It's way too dangerous out there. He could encounter tarantulas, green Martians or killer bees. But in his tree, every day is the same and if danger comes along, he's well-prepared. Scaredy Squirrel's emergency kit includes antibacterial soap, Band-Aids and a parachute.

Day after day he watches and waits, and waits and watches, until one day ... his worst nightmare comes true! Scaredy suddenly finds himself out of his tree, where germs, poison ivy and sharks lurk.

But as Scaredy Squirrel leaps into the unknown, he discovers something really uplifting ...

Scaredy Squirrel Details

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Author : Mélanie Watt

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From Reader Review Scaredy Squirrel for online ebook

Kristine Hansen says

A highly relatable story about fear and the hold it can have on you. A good book to read with the timid. BUT it's also a good book for those who live with those who are anxious. I see a lot more to this book than what's originally intended for the younger audience. Living with anxiety I relate to the need for routine and sameness, and also the frustration of being trapped in that loop. It will be interesting to see what else the series has to offer.

Laura Lee Denby says

Scaredy Squirrel is a beautifully written witty book about courage and knowing our fears.

The book is about a nervous squirrel who never ever leaves the safety of his little nut tree in to the dangerous realms of The Unknown! He is scared of many things, including germs, and indeed instructs us to wash our hands with antibacterial soap before reading any further! Scaredy Squirrel is scared of: green Martians, killer bees, tarantulas, poison ivy and sharks. Of course none of these creatures are in his little, safe nut tree but it does mean he only gets to see and do the same old things every day. However, if anything unusual did happen, do not worry; Scaredy Squirrel has his trusty emergency kit and plans for every eventuality... which mainly end in playing dead. One day something happens, something he did not plan for! A killer bee arrives in our poor Scaredy Squirrels tree and he knocks his emergency kit straight out of the tree! Scaredy Squirrel jumps without thinking, to catch his kit and then something incredible happens! Scaredy Squirrel begins to glide, after all this time, he has finally found out he is a flying squirrel. If he had never jumped out of the tree, into The Unknown, he would never have known. This flying squirrel discovers he loves flying and forgets all about the killer bee in his home and all the other things of which he is afraid. Finally he lands in a bush and plays dead for two whole hours and then when he is quite content that nothing terrible is happening, returns to his nice, safe tree. His experience has inspired him and now every day although he is still quite a nervous little squirrel, he jumps into The Unknown every single day and he forget all about his emergency kit.

I think this book is fantastic in so many ways. The tale in itself is so appropriate to modern life for children in which they may be worried about many things. This story shows us it is ok to worry sometimes but if you are too scared it may stop you experiencing some wonderful things. You may never learn the best things about yourself! We all need to push ourselves sometimes in life and this book illustrates that in the most lovely and understandable way. Whilst I would say this book is aimed at the 4-9 age group I honestly think it would be enjoyed by a whole range of children and adults. The themes in it can be discussed deeply or it can be taken for the lovely story with exciting pictures that it is. I also think it is particularly useful that the book contains a very well written foreword and an end note about the author. This makes it useful in class for exploration around the structure of books.

This book could also be used in PSHE classes to discuss situations in which we have achieved something which was initially for us or things we might want to try in future.

The illustrations in this book are fantastic, although quite simple there are many things to look at and I believe this is a book pupil and teacher alike will want to look at time and time again!

So remember everyone- you might just be able to fly if you jump out into The Unknown one day!

Philip says

I stole this style of review from Heather's (well, Heather's daughter's) fantastic review of Ladybug Girl at the Beach. Her review is a lot more... focused.

Interviewer/ Dad: What did you think about Scaredy Squirrel?

Eleanor: I thought it was good.

Gwennie: Scardey Squirrel's about scarey.

Dad: Ellie, why did you like it?

Eleanor: Because I wanted to. Why are you typing that?

Dad: Gwennie, did you like Scaredy Squirrel?

Gwennie: Yeah.

Dad: Why?

Gwennie: Because Scaredy is scarey scarey...

Dad: What happened in Scaredy Squirrel?

Eleanor: He was afraid. That's what happened.

Dad: Afraid of what?

E: Afraid of KILLER BEES!!! What else was he afraid of Dad?

D: Well, was he afraid of ice cream?

E: heh heh heh NOOOOOoooo... Was he afraid of ice cream dad? Yes or no.

D: No.

E: What was he afraid of?

D: You tell me what he was afraid of.

E: He was afraid of killer beeeeeees, taRANtulas, germs, sharks, poison ivy. That's what he was afraid of. Where's Gwennie?

D: Gwennie left the interview.

E: GWENNIE! COME BACK TO THE INTERVIEW!!! Did you get the bank? Can I have it? Can I put in the money?

G: My turn!

E: I wanna put it like this!

G: No, no, don't push me.

E: My tuuuuurrrn.

D: Hey guys, can we get back to the interview?

G: I wanna go downstairs.

E: Gwennie, can I have more money?

G: Yeah, you can have **more** money.

E: Can I have a lot of money?... ... Is Gwennie not at the interview? ... What's a view?

D. An *INTER*view is where someone asks you a lot of questions about something. Like, I'm asking you a lot of questions about Scaredy Squirrel.

D: Do you want to say anything else about Scaredy Squirrel?

E: Yeah. I wanna say that he's afraid.

D: You already said that.

E: Uhhh... HEEEEeee... uhhh... is Scaredy Squirrel afraid of money?

D: Uhhh... I don't know.

E: He *is* afraid of money.

Lisa Vegan says

This is adorable. I think young kids will get the gist but it helps to be older to understand all the inside information. This is one of those picture books (such as *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*) that can make a great gift for adults.

I loved the smiling bees, although I'm not sure I'm particularly fond of the pictures, as I was in Watt's Chester books. I'm afraid of bees. (Mélanie Watt is afraid of sharks.) Scaredy Squirrel is afraid of a lot of things, including some things that are outlandish (for a squirrel) so that this is a very amusing book. I also appreciated how the end isn't "unrealistic" and doesn't deviate from the rest of the book's story.

I think I'll read the other Scaredy Squirrel books and all/most of this author/illustrator's books.

There's a very cute very short author bio and self portrait in the back inside cover of the book.

Laura says

My Kindergarten class looooves Scaredy Squirrel now. So much fun to read with them!

Toby says

2010 Monarch Award master list

`From the flap copy: 'Here's the story, in a nutshell: I never leave my nut tree. It's way too dangerous out there. I could encounter germs, poison ivy or sharks. If danger comes along, I'm prepared. I have antibacterial soap, Band-Aids and a parachute. But things really get shaken up later in the book when I'm forced out of my tree by a vicious intruder! Will I survive this ordeal? Will I undergo a life-changing experience? Will I discover my true inner self?' No spoilers here, you'll have to read the book to find out! I liked squirrels a lot better when I first saw this book; that was before I had to spend \$300 to have a nest of squirrels relocated from my attic. But Scaredy is a charmer, from the cover illustration where he's gamely gritting his teeth to his graphs & lists & comparison charts, such as the Advantages of Never Leaving the Nut Tree (9 items), which clearly wins out over the Disadvantages (3 items). Kids will have fun telling their own stories using the book as a writing model. They may also remember other favorite worrywarts from children's books, such as Kevin Henkes' Wemberly Worried, a favorite of mine.

To my amazement, I have a real-world connection to this book after scanning the book reviews. Publishers Weekly said, "It's an indication of how well Watt...knows her helicopter-parented audience that she's able to turn the phrase 'antibacterial soap' into a bona fide punchline." Thanks, Pat!

Danielle says

The Turkeybird Speaks(My 3 year old son's POV): "This book is one of those that I just can't put down. My favorite is when my dad reads it, 'wake up, eat a nut, look at a view, eat a nut...', he just does such a good job! Scaredy Squirrel is one of those characters you love instantly, I mean, he's really a flying squirrel! He can fly! How cool is that? And he's afraid of bee's and I am not a fan at all. I once had one sting me and my thumb swelled up like a balloon! So of course you want to stay away from those terrible bugs!

"My favorite part though has to be his emergency kit! He has everything you could ever need in there to keep away all the scary things you might encounter! Although I'm still not quite sure why he's afraid of sharks? I LOVE sharks! But my mom doesn't, so maybe it's an adult thing???. Anyway, the emergency kit! My mom and I even drew one up together. They have one you can print off on the website for the book and it is incredible! You have to try it out! Of course we included band-aids, just like squirrel, because they are my favorite thing to stick to my body (even if I don't have a 'good' reason for it, as my mom would say)!

"This is a definite must read with any guy or girl you know! Pick it up and enjoy Scaredy Squirrel's funny adventure!"

Mom's Two Cents: "The Turkeybird is right, this is one funny book! It was actually awarded the ALA's award for most Notable Children's Book in 2007 and I completely agree. My husband, The Baker, reads to The Turkeybird every night before bed as there time together the rest of the day is limited and this is something they love to do together. Well, at least every other night he asks for this book. I love to hear him chuckle in the other room as he see's Scaredy Squirrel fall from the tree to discover he can fly and that the

world outside his tree isn't really as bad as he first thought.

"One of the funniest things about the book is all the crazy things Scaredy Squirrel is afraid of. I love it! Martians, killer bees, tarantulas, poison ivy, germs and sharks. Now, I do have to say, I'm not a fan of sharks, never have been, but Martians? Hilarious! But the truly great thing about it is, I know we all know a little boy or girl who is terrified of something so completely random and impossible that they will never truly be hurt by it, but that doesn't mean they can't fear it. The author mentioned this in her discussion of the book:

From the author: "Mélanie has often noted how the Scaredy Squirrel books helped her work out her own insecurities and fears, as the success of these titles has required her to venture out into the unknown, and like Scaredy she has found the experience truly uplifting."

"In reality, though this book is funny and entertaining it teaches a wonderful lesson to children of all ages. When we stay in our shells, be it our homes or a safe place (a job, a city, a rut, anything), we could be missing out on all the world has to offer us. In Scaredy Squirrel's case it was knowing he could fly and see more of the world around him. Granted he still has some other fears to overcome, but it's all about taking things one step at a time. And who couldn't use that?"

The 1st daughter Recommends: Ages 3 and up. For kids (and adults) who may be frightened to step outside of their front door (or even their comfort zone).

Make sure to visit the publishers website for some fun activities too!

Starjustin says

Awesome children's series!

This is a great book for both big and little children. (That includes adults too!) Scaredy Squirrel, in a magical way, learns a very important lesson in life. The illustrations are whimsical ! This book is the first in a series so be sure to check out the others also. You won't be disappointed! ??

Emerson and Theodore says

Fun book that tackles the issue of anxiety in a child appropriate way. Scaredy squirrel is anxious about life outside his tree. He does the same things at the same times (book also helps teach time), eats the same things, and is scared of anything new. Until one day.....scaredy squirrel learns that he can have a great adventure by breaking his routine...a little bit. Cute story.

Rossy says

I think the layout was so cute and organized! And the "warning" at the beginning of the book: "Scaredy Squirrel insists that everyone wash their hands with antibacterial soap before reading this book" was so funny!

Luann says

Scaredy Squirrel is awesome! Scaredy Squirrel is also: predictable, prepared, organized, vigilant, adventurous, and unpredictable. By extension, Mélanie Watt must also be: predictable, prepared, organized, vigilant, adventurous, unpredictable and, most definitely, awesome!

I love that Scaredy Squirrel makes lists and tries his utmost to be prepared for the things that scare him. I also love how he responds when his life becomes a bit topsy-turvy!

Thanks so much to my GR friend Lisa for recommending Scaredy Squirrel to me! Scaredy Squirrel will fit in perfectly in a family storytime I'm going to be doing later this summer. I'm certain that he will be a huge hit!

Kajwan says

Simple and clear it tells the story of our mental fears and their impact on our lives. Highly recommended to all politicians and generals!

Shawn says

Here come the most prepared, or even most, overly prepared squirrel ever. With every contingency mapped and thought out a head of time, this squirrel plans to leave its tree. Humorous and cute and very enjoyable little book.

Kathryn says

Haha! SO amusing! I know the feeling; some days you just want to stay safe and sound in your tree--er, your home--and not worry about all the nasty things out there in the world. But, then, things would get a bit boring if you did that every day! This is the tale of how Scaredy Squirrel gets tired of his life of eating nuts and looking at the view from his tree, has a surprising adventure (will he even have to use his emergency kit?) and discovers that he may just have to vary his routine in the future! :-)

Crystal Marcos says

My almost 2 yr old daughter and I read this one together. She enjoyed it as much as I did for different reasons. She is too young to really get the story, but she definitely enjoyed the illustrations. I loved Scaredy's cheesy smile! The layout of the book made it even more fun to read. I will revisit this humorous tale when she is older and would get the message about conquering your fears. I look forward to reading more Scaredy books.
