

Tatyana Feeney



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Little Owl loves doing sums, eating ice-cream, and riding his scooter. These are some of his favourite things. He has his favourite colours, too. And orange isn't one of them. So when Mummy knits a scarf as a surprise Little Owl knows that he definitely doesn't like it. It's itchy, long, and far too orange. After losing his scarf at the zoo, Mummy realizes that perhaps Little Owl should be involved in the choice and creation of a replacement. Her instincts are proved absolutely right. But whatever did happen to the orange scarf? Its fate is hinted at in this deftly-told humorous tale!

A warm and witty yarn from the creator of Small Bunny's Blue Blanket, praised by The Telegraph as 'deceptively simple and decidedly sweet'

Little Owl's Orange Scarf Details

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Author : Tatyana Feeney

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From Reader Review Little Owl's Orange Scarf for online ebook

Homegrown Reader says

We are on the cusp of scarf weather. So very close. Bug would wear a scarf everyday if I would let him but it's still just a bit warm. That combined with his love for owls (I may have mentioned that once or twice) just secured that this book was well read before we returned it to the library. The story was cute and simple a perfect pairing with the illustrations that focused solely on three colors.

Little Owl's mother kicks off the story by knitting a scarf for her son. However, her effort is met with some issues. Little Owl thinks it's scratchy, much too orange, and much too long. He never wants to wear it and even tries to dispense with it in a (I like to think) Paddington inspired plot. All his efforts are in vain though until a trip to the zoo rids him of the cursed garment. This time he helps his mother pick out the yarn and knit the scarf. And it's perfect.

The illustrations are made even more striking by Feeney's use of only three colors: orange, teal, and black. The orange and teal are so complementary that their little contributions really accent the right bits on each page. Little Owl's feathers have a teal underlay, providing the slight foreshadowing of what's to come. Each drawing is simple and clear. The other animals that make an appearance are easy to identify, even for little ones. The best page is the wool (yarn) shop. Stacked floor to ceiling the giant skeins give me delicious chills. I get the same feeling when I walk into a fabric store. So many projects sit in the bolts of fabric waiting to be discovered. The wool store is just one example of how Feeney plays with the illustrations; another page has a scarf extending right past the end of the far page and ending on the next page. The balance perfectly accentuates the message of the story.

Including kids can be hard, Bug loves to "help" but it takes three times as long to get anything done with him. In the end it's time worth spending. For days and days and days he spoke about helping me make trail mix and loves eating it when I pull it out because he helped make it. Or when we make his morning smoothie. He gobble it up twice as fast if he's been the one to push the buttons and hand me the spinach. We all have Little Owls who would just like us busy folks to remember that they too have opinions, ideas, and preferences. Ones that we've influenced and shaped but really are still theirs. Because being a parent is about raising good, loving, responsible, and independent Little Owls that will go into the world on their own one day. We do this by modeling that behaviour, by showing that others' opinions matter, by taking the time to teach instead of just do. In the end, it's all worth it.

Story Tips:

We snuggled up in a scarf while reading this but if you are handier than I and actually know how to knit than that would be a great pairing.

I need more!

Tatyana Feeney has a few books out. A couple have a similar feel to Little Owl: Small Elephant's Bathtime, Small Bunny's Blue Blanket, etc. She also works with Irish stories Cillian Agus An Ron (about a boy and his seal friend) and An Nollaig Sa Naigin (A Christmas story that follows a little boy growing up). For more information check out her website at: <http://tatyanafeeney.com>

Stephanie says

How often do we receive a handmade gift from someone we love and think, I would love to accidentally lose this? Well, that is Little Owl's dilemma. I thought this was such a cute book, I love the simplicity of the colors and illustrations. And of course owls+knitting=love.

ps. Grandma, if you're reading this, everything you make for me is the exception. Never lose-worthy.

Christine says

Very cute little board book. Beautiful contrast color illustrations. Sweet, simple little story. My 2 year old likes this one and now loves repeating "owl owl owl"!

Diane says

4/5 stars

You know how sometimes a scarf can feel too itchy, be the wrong color or just not right? Well, even a little owl can have the same problem. But, in this sweet story, Little Owl, tries to lose his itchy, too long and too orange scarf, but mommy owl always seems to find it. One day Little Owl thought it was lost for good when after a trip to the zoo, the scarf disappeared once again.

This time mommy owl couldn't find it, so she works with little owl to find just the perfect yarn, in just the right color and knits him a new scarf -- real soft too, but on their next trip to the zoo, the too-long old scarf reappears, wrapped cozily around the neck of a very long necked animal.

This story about compromise is cute, and the simple with colorful pencil style illustrations are sweet as well.

Kaethe says

I liked that the problem felt familiar, but the resolution didn't. Pretty pictures.

Sorry, I can't love it. I'm just not a fan of orange.

Library copy.

DeA says

This was a great book for an orange themed storytime. The kids and parents got a good giggle from little owls antics about his very long itchy orange scarf. Recommend to parents and teachers with children 1-6 years of age.

Lynn Davidson says

Little Owl's mother knit him a scarf, but he didn't like that it was too long, too itchy and too orange. He tried to lose it but his mother always found it ... until the day he went to the zoo.

Funny and satisfying ending.

Caroline says

Little Owl gets an orange scarf from his mother, which he doesn't like, and conveniently loses it at the zoo. Then the little owl and his mom pick out a different color yarn and make another scarf that Little Owl actually likes.

Archit Ojha says

Cuteness overloaded!

The story of making of an orange scarf wakes up the child inside up. Enjoyed this much much more.

Gina says

The art is really simply done, with some lovely effects from the scarf. It feels like the end lesson is more for the parents than the children, but that works every now and then.

Brenda Kahn says

Cute story with adorable illustrations and a nice twist at the end. For some reason, I found the font especially appealing here.

Lynn says

I love this illustrator's minimalist style and how she conveys so much with just a few lines. Here she gives a familiar story a fun ending and again the illustrations are enchanting.

Brittany says

This is the cutest owl book ever! The last page just made me so happy when the giraffe got the big orange scarf. Loved!

Rachel says

This is one very understanding and kind mother. Little Owl doesn't like his new scarf, so he loses it on purpose, rather than get mad, his mother decides to make a new one with his help. The pictures and colours are first rate, and for the most part the story is cute. But the message is, on the one hand good (a mother should be kind to her child and should work together), but on the other hand bad (if a child doesn't like a present, they don't need to be grateful and they can purposefully lose it, therefore getting a better present). The positives outweigh the negative messages in the end though.

Erin says

Super cute! Little Owl hates his new scarf. It's too long, it's itchy, and it's way too orange! He tries to lose it everywhere, but his mother always finds it. One day he goes on a field trip to the zoo and comes home without it. When his mother searches everywhere for it and does not find it, they go to the yarn store together to make a new scarf for Little Owl. He gets to pick out the yarn, so he loves it when it's finished! It's soft, just the right length, and decidedly NOT orange. There is a cute twist in the end when you discover what actually happened to the orange scarf.

The only thing that bothers me at all about this book is the field trip. The main character is an animal. Wouldn't going to the zoo be like going to a prison? Food for thought.

Great for preschool or toddler storytimes.
