



Penguin and the Cupcake

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Most penguins are happy with their all-fish diet, but not Penguin. He's craving something just a little bit different: something soft, something sweet, something covered in luscious pink icing. There are no cupcakes in Antarctica, but Penguin's heard that the Northern Hemisphere is a veritable paradise of cupcakes. So, he heads north. On his long journey, Penguin encounters some other cold-weather natives. Polar Bear and Walrus might not know much about cupcakes, but they have a thing or two to say about Penguin's storytelling skills! Created with vibrant collage art, this delightfully tongue-in-cheek picture book flows like a graphic novel.

Penguin and the Cupcake Details

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Author : Ashley Spires

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From Reader Review Penguin and the Cupcake for online ebook

Heidi-Marie says

Adorable! I love it. The illustrations are great. The story is hilarious. Great possibilities for storytime if I can nail 4 voices down. I may pass on the notes for the storytime crowd, since they might not get them. And though they were informative and a little preachy, I also found them hilarious to be included. A school-age child might enjoy that in a read-alone or storytime. Lap-read would work, too.

1/14/15 Thought I'd give it a try in the Birds preschool theme. Parts definitely over their heads, but they got the cupcakes and pizza part. I only read the first note, intending to skip the others. But even the first flopped. So, for preschool no notes. But I think in school-age--particularly upper elementary--they would be hilarious.

Liza Gilbert says

Um. Kind of strange. A penguin desires a cupcake, so he goes in search of one on the other side of the planet. The story is told in a kind of Cartoon Network / Dashiell Hammett style, with little pieces of notebook paper tucked to the side with jokes only an adult would understand. I think Penguin has enough charm for kids, but the entire premise is a little odd.

Rebecca says

I'm glad that Erin pointed out that Ashley Spires, creator of the hilarious Binky the Space Cat, is the author/illustrator of this one as well. It's got her trademark humor as well as an almost Claymation style of storytelling (or maybe they all just remind me of the artic puppets in the movie Elf). Wanting to eat something besides fish, Penguin journeys to the northern hemisphere in search of a food he has only heard of in stories: a cupcake. Includes some fun asides that correct what animals actually eat and do.

I noticed that the endpapers feature felt puppets, but when I tried to go to Ashley's web site for critters (www.chickentika.com), I could not get the page to load. :(

The Library Lady says

The "commentaries" are there to appeal to "hip" grownups who really want books that appeal to them, not the kids. The text is funny in spots but uneven. And the whole package is clearly intended to increase the market for the author's cute l'il finger puppets, which she plugs on the end flap. Why she didn't just package the puppets with the book and be done with it, I'll never know.

Carol says

Penguin is sick and tired of eating fish all the time. What he really wants is CUPCAKES!!!! He sets off on a journey to find the desired treat. Penguin does not end up where he thought he would, but it's okay because he meets some new friends. Eventually he decides to return home to his regular meals of fish. This is a silly story that might have entertained more if it weren't for the interjections that show up on lined notebook paper. These comments don't seem to fit the story and interrupt the flow. The cute characters were inspired by the author/illustrators own line of felt finger puppets. Maybe she hopes to sell more of her creations to the people who read this book, but I am not buying.

Lauren Amanda says

I really enjoyed this book. It tells a very cute story and I really like the facts included on the pages.

Rommel Sison says

5-year-old daughter: 5 stars
6-year-old daughter: 5 stars

Karen! says

I know. Me rating a penguin book this low is alarming. Me rating a penguin picture book this low is extremely alarming.

The illustrations are adorable, and who doesn't love cupcakes? My problem is that this book is not written for children. There is a lot of text and the sly jokes meant for adults elicited barely a chuckle. I wish the writing were better, because this should have been a new favorite.

Lynn Davidson says

This is such a cute story about Penguin who went on a search for cupcakes. Funny interactions between him and the characters he met, and funny ending - with fun illustrations.

Kate Hastings says

THIS is a "Kate" book. Great pictures, hilarious commentary by characters. A penguin decides to visit the north pole in search of cupcakes. Along the way, said penguin defies reality by flying, meeting a "kelp" eating Walrus (they eat clams and mussels), and finally meeting a nice lady on the plane back... with... cupcakes. I might have to buy this one for all my nieces and nephews.

Brittany says

Very cute book. I like how there were (kind of) three points of view in the story, even though Polar Bear and Walrus didn't have that big of a part in the text. The one thing that made this book a 3 star instead of a 4-5 star for me...all of those tiny side notes got very irritating. Especially the one about Walrus just needing to love herself. News flash: This is a book for kids that do not understand that yet, so why even throw that in here. Just a thought.

Erin says

Penguin is tired of eating fish in Antarctica. He wants a sweet treat and he heard he can find them in the Northern Hemisphere. So penguin flies to the Northern Hemisphere in search of cupcakes and he encounters a polar bear and walrus along the way. His new friends don't know where to find cupcakes but they do have an opinion about penguin's storytelling skills!

I read this book and laughed out loud! Spires created Binky the Space Cat so I'm not surprised by the humor in this book. And the illustrations are great too. I love the little facts about penguins, polar bears, and walruses added on little scraps of paper.

Tayler K says

I think this is what it would be like if I tried to write a children's book--here's your cute story but I really need to include some real-life notes because there are some important things going on!

This really was a very cute story though with wonderful illustrations. I thought the style and how the characters talked was neat because it is like they are all there telling you the story.

I'm off to see about a Pizza sequel...

Melissa says

This was pretty hilarious! All Penguin wants is some cupcakes, but since he can't find them at the South Pole, he decides to travel north and seek them out at the North Pole as well! With educational asides on climate change and overfishing and the like, this book offered a lot more than a silly story. But I agreed with the polar bear and walrus on the last page - I wish they both had been featured more!

Friend of Pixie (F.O.P.) says

Reminiscent in tone of "Pigeon Drives the Bus," but funnier and with more substance. Penguin, tired of his normal fishy diet, goes in search of a cupcake. He boards a plane for the Northern Hemisphere, but ends up in the artic where he finds a polar bear and a walrus, but no cupcake. Along the way, we learn about bit about the animals and their habitat. I like a book with good dialog that reads aloud well.

