



Letters to Anyone and Everyone

Toon Tellegen , Jessica Ahlberg (Illustrator)

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Award-winning author Toon Tellegen has whipped up an enchanting collection of short stories, all centered on a series of poetic letters written by his animal protagonists. These fantastic, dreamlike, and even philosophical tales conjure up a world where the creatures of the earth can send mail to the sun (and get an answer); where you can actually write a letter to a letter; and where just writing something down can make it come true.

Jessica Ahlberg's alluring artwork captures the unique spirit of the whimsical, charming fables.

Letters to Anyone and Everyone Details

Date : Published January 5th 2010 by Boxer Books (first published 1996)

ISBN : 9781906250959

Author : Toon Tellegen , Jessica Ahlberg (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 156 pages

Genre : Childrens, Short Stories, Animals, Fantasy, Middle Grade

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Uflchildrens says

Really cute (in the best sense) artwork - watercolor and pen. I think that is the best part of this book that would be good for read-aloud before bed. It is full of stories that are not necessarily connected, but they are all based on letters written between animals who all seem to know each other. When I first picked this book up and started reading, I thought it was like books I was supposed to like as a child and didn't - an adult's idea of sweet. I left it alone and came back to it one night, as it was still on my nightstand. I found it sweet and silly, just like the pictures. So perhaps worth a look. Has a cool book ribbon to mark your place! A good book to help ask "what if...". The sensibility is for a younger child, but looks like a J chapter book - so a perfect read-aloud. -Elaine

Victoria Whipple says

I'm going to buy a copy of this book and keep it for my grandchildren, right alongside Winnie the Pooh and my Moomintrolls books. This sweet, short volume is a collection of letters and stories about letters among a group of animals. Every story contains a letter of some sort, and it has the same cozy feel of the Hundred Acre Wood, but doesn't feel like a rip off. Translated by Martin Cleaver and illustrated by Jessica Ahlberg, the short chapters are full of magic, love, friendship and letters. Illustrations on most pages range from tiny figures to full pages of bears and ants eating brightly frosted cakes. The language is colorful and simple, like the start of "The Tortoise's Hurry," "One morning, the tortoise woke up and was horrified to discover that he was in a hurry." Take your time with this book though, and savor every letter and character.

Stephen says

These are the types of kids' books that I love the most -- sweet but not sacherine, clever, playful and never talking down to its audience... which is extraordinary when the audience for this book could be four or fourty. Toon Tellegen works with words and logic in a way that is reminiscent of A A Milne's Pooh books. All writers should strive for such perfection!

M-L says

Cake, letters and cute animals - what's not to like?

Creta says

?áng yêu quá :**
T? nhiên th?y b?n th?n trong b?n Chu?t Ch?i haha..

Phong Nh??c says

Nh?ng lá th? nh? gió g?i ai ?ó
Letters to Anyone and Everyone
Tác gi?: Toon Tellegen
Minh ho?: Jessica Ahlberg
D?ch: Huy Toàn
Rate: 4/5

??y. Tôi c?n nh?ng câu chuy?n d? th??ng th? này ?? xoa d?u tâm h?n nh?y c?m b? t?n th??ng sau Choice. ?

T05/2018

Hà Linh says

quá s?c d? th??ng ch?i qu?iiiiii

Ruth Anderson says

My daughter and I read this book out loud together. The best part is the pictures. There is no overarching story, it more closely resembles a collection of short stories or poetry. We will most likely not reread.

Sarah says

What a peculiar little book comprised of short story-like chapters. Tellegen's characters are lonely little animals that are desperate for friends and connection, so they write letters back and forth. The elephant asks the snail if they could dance on snail's house; the mole writes letters to himself in the darkness underground; and the bear just wants cake. It's sweetly written with perfect small, simple illustrations to complement the text. Whimsical, a little melancholy, but also a celebration of friendship.

Mips says

Genoten van dit jeugdboekje!
Een rasechte, volwaardige Tellegen!:)
En een pleidooi voor die goeie, oude briefform.
Ik heb er plots weer zin in!
Zo'n brief met 'vertrouwd handschrift' in je bus.
Waar je dagen op kon wachten...
En tien keer kon herlezen!

(misschien toch nog eens 'n keertje doen; wij ontvangen ze niet meer, die mooie, lyrische post...) En verder een pluim voor de tedere, minuscule illustraties van Jessica Ahlberg. 'n Meerwaarde voor de verhalen! Heerlijk om naar te turen!

Jane G Meyer says

Picked this book up in Brandon, Vermont at a charming bookstore--I loved the handcrafted wooden bookshelves and the lighting in the store. Wish I could post a photo here :) They also faced most of their books out, which was unusual and made for a colorful and even enticing display.

Anyway, I read this book, which is a series of letters to and from animals, to John Ronan over a couple of days. Much of the whimsy of the stories flew right over his head, so I'd say an older a child, of five or six would appreciate the charm more. But it's a really fun change from the typical American chapter book. I'd wish, however, that some of the stories connected better to one another so that the overall storyline hit yet another depth of knowledge or feeling.

This will be an easy book to read and explore time and again.

Dawn (& Ron) says

After reading my friend Kathryn's infectious review of *Far Away Across the Sea*, I immediately checked with our library, finding only this one title available at a distance branch, I quickly ordered it and patiently awaited its arrival.

My first thoughts when holding this little book in my hands was how quaint, adorable and inviting it is, you are immediately drawn in and it begs to be gobbled up in one sitting. I decided to read a few stories at a time so I could absorb them, sometimes this was quite hard to do but I found myself looking toward to what the next day's batch would bring me and the little escape they would offer. I was glad to see the book also agreed with my decision, as the following quote shows.

"Dearest Tortoise, That is a tragedy for you. It's so cruel when you are in a hurry. Fight your way out of it and defeat it. Fold it up into an insignificant ball, then bury it in the ground."

The charming illustrations fit Tellegen's words like a glove, never distracting or overshadowing. My favorites are the tortoise, the squirrel, the table (yes, the table), the bear with his honey cakes, and especially the elephant. The only problem for me is what happens with the elephant, I would have a hard time answering if a child asked 'what or why did that happen with the elephant?'. With that being said there is still so much here to enjoy.

Remember not to rush this tender, humorous, loving, intelligent, thoughtful, and yummy confection, take it in small bites, so you don't miss a morsel.

Karen says

Love, love, love! Yet another book (like Today I Will: A Year of Quotes, Notes, and Promises to Myself and Mud Pies and Other Recipes: A Cookbook for Dolls) that I ordered for school and now have to run out and buy a copy for home. Can't wait to share this one with my kids. Every time I read a different story I thought, "Well this is my favorite." Then I'd read the next one and love it, too. You can't help but love the amazing little characters and their situations - the mole who writes letters to himself because he's lonely, the elephant who keeps climbing and falling from trees, the cake-crazy bear. And, most of all, I love that the stories started out as bedtime stories for Tellegen's children.

Richard Derus says

I wonder if your sense of wonder is getting enough exercise. Have you believed two impossible things before noon? Have you made a note to be grateful to the table you sit down to eat in front of, quite probably without ever so much as saying a quiet "thank you, dear table"? I'm betting you haven't. After all, the squirrel...a most loving and patient friend to the elephant and even the bear...had never said his thank-yous to the table. You can imagine the table's joy when he does write that letter!

Oh, and the elephant! The elephant visits the squirrel in his house up the beech tree. It's no surprise that the elephant breaks all the squirrel's furniture before falling out of the tree on the way home. Clumsy, clumsy elephant, who simply doesn't have any sense of balance. I suppose it's no wonder that the snail, to whom the elephant wrote a letter asking for the pleasure of a dance atop the snail's roof, said it wasn't a great idea. But what's an elephant to do when the only thing left to do is build a raft and go to sea?

The sea appears to have taught the elephant how to balance. At least, that's what the squirrel thinks when missing the dear old elephant during a quiet moment amid his next birthday celebration.

And the bear! What a trencherman...trencherbear, I suppose...and the nerve that appetite on legs has! The bear writes to all the animals and asks them if they would please celebrate all their birthdays at once so they can all have cakes which the bear (politely) tells them are really bear food!

But no one minds because that's what the bear always does and is always, always polite about it. So all those visits the bear pays are friendly ones.

These charming short poems masquerading as tales are designed to give the young reader a sense of the magic that the world can't exactly refuse to them yet. The adult reading the poems to the youngest readers who could reasonably be expected to follow them, say six or so, has plenty of opportunities to bring the lessons to life. The lessons aren't necessarily part of the tale. That's such a great idea. Don't tell the kid about selfishness and loneliness and losing someone you love. The animals are doing the learning. The boy who cried wolf? Grim and violent and old hat. Here, the cricket learns about telling the truth by writing a letter saying "The cricket is not here" while chirping madly! Of course that would confuse others.

But the cricket needs to learn another lesson, it seems, since learning the word "not" was accomplished by stealing that word from the letter the elephant wrote. The one that said, "You will not fall," that the elephant was going to read from the top of the beech tree! I don't need to tell you what happened, do I.

I loved the time I spent in this world where all letters are answered by return wind, and all the animals and tables and letters that received the letters were excited to get them and write return letters. The wind always delivers the letters...sometimes huge huge stacks of letters, just ask the ant!...to just the right person. The concepts are ideal for younger readers and the execution, both text and art, is ideal for post-magical thinkers of eight or so to experience as solo reads. There are enough vocabulary words to keep adults involved but the gentle, charming world need cause them no anxiety. Here is a safe space to turn loose of the still-forming mind and soul.

My dear old LibraryThing friend Anita has my smiling thanks and deep gratitude for introducing me to this lovely world.

Stacy says

Postmodern Japanese author, Haruki Murakami, pushes against Japanese literary conventions. He encourages a wide reading of texts and says, “If you only read the books that everyone else is reading, you can only think what everyone else is thinking.”

Often times, strong cultural influences impact aesthetic taste, acculturation, and thinking. Therefore, when selecting books it is important to include books written by international authors. Letters to Anyone and Everyone was written by “one of Holland’s most renowned and loved authors . . . [whose books] are loved all through Europe” (Perry, 2010).

The beautiful whimsy of Tellegen and Ahlberg’s Letters to Anyone and Everyone (2010) demonstrates why this author and illustrator are loved throughout Europe. The book consists of twenty-three small stories written as short letters by a group of animals and delivered by the wind from door to door.

Here’s the first Letter:

Dear Snail,

May I invite you to dance with me on top of your house? Just a few steps? That’s what I want most of all. I promise I’ll dance very delicately, so we won’t fall through your roof.

But of course, you can never be really sure.

The Elephant

This quirky epistolary collection engages the imagination as it celebrates cake, friendship, letter writing, and life. Ahlberg’s small and precise drawings add to the poetic experience, bringing rich characters to life and inviting a close viewing of these imaginary communications.

I believe this is one of those books that will inspire thoughts not everyone else is thinking.
