

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!

By Mo Willems

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When a bus driver takes a break from his route, a very unlikely volunteer springs up to take his place—a pigeon! But you've never met one like this before. As he pleads, wheedles, and begs his way through the book, children will love being able to answer back and decide his fate.

In his hilarious picture book debut, popular cartoonist Mo Willems perfectly captures a preschooler's temper tantrum.

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Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! By Mo Willems Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #722 in Books
- Brand: Hyperion Press
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- Released on: 2003-04-01
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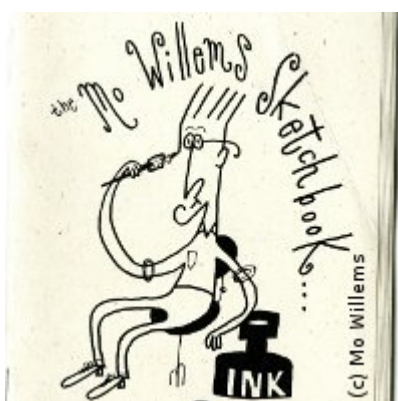
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Editorial Review

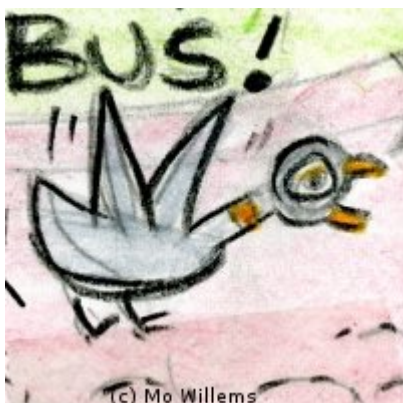
Amazon.com Review

Amazon Exclusive: The Pigeon: A Life in Pictures

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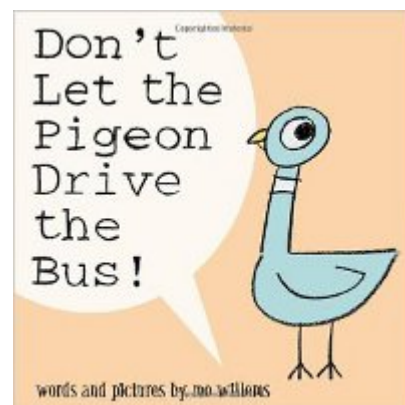
Back in 1993, I was cartooning for a 'zine. Due to a lack of other material, we decided to make the December issue a sketchbook with just my cartoons. I have been producing small cartoon and story sketchbooks for clients and pals every year since then.



In 1998, my sketchbook featured a new character, the Pigeon. Born in the margins of a 1997 notebook filled with potential picture book ideas, he was complaining that his ideas were better than mine. To mollify him, I put him in that year's sketchbook.



The original sketchbook was much longer than the final published volume, but some of the lines were the same.



In late 1999, an agent essentially agreed with the Pigeon and rejected my picture book ideas. She suggested I revisit my sketchbook with an eye to turning it into a picture book. My wife was working at a school library at the time and had read the sketchbook to her kids, who had enjoyed it. So I suppose it wasn't too crazy an idea. I started to revise the layout and work with color.

At the end of 2001, after several dozen rejections because the book was "unusual," an editor decided that "unusual" was a good thing. Plus, it made her laugh. I began reworking and rewriting. The Pigeon was now starting to look more like his mature self.

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! was published in April 2003 and, to my surprise, proved to be popular quite quickly. Thankfully, that Pigeon doodle in the notebook back in 1997 was so insistent. He was right!

From School Library Journal

PreSchool-Grade 2-A brilliantly simple book that is absolutely true to life, as anyone who interacts with an obdurate three-year-old can attest. The bus driver has to leave for a while, and he makes one request of readers: "Don't let the pigeon drive the bus." It's the height of common sense, but the driver clearly knows this determined pigeon and readers do not-yet. "Hey, can I drive the bus?" asks the bird, at first all sweet reason, and then, having clearly been told no by readers, he begins his ever-escalating, increasingly silly bargaining. "I tell you what: I'll just steer," and "I never get to do anything," then "No fair! I bet your mom would let me." In a wonderfully expressive spread, the pigeon finally loses it, and, feathers flying and eyeballs popping, screams "LET ME DRIVE THE BUS!!!" in huge, scratchy, black-and-yellow capital letters. The driver returns, and the pigeon leaves in a funk-until he spies a huge tractor trailer, and dares to dream again. Like David Shannon's *No, David* (Scholastic, 1998), Pigeon is an unflinching and hilarious look at a child's potential for mischief. In a plain palette, with childishly elemental line drawings, Willems has captured the essence of unreasonableness in the very young. The genius of this book is that the very young will actually recognize themselves in it.

Dona Ratterree, New York City Public Schools

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From [Booklist](#)

PreS. In his winning debut, Willems finds the preschooler in a pigeon: a cajoling, tantrum-throwing, irresistible bird. "I've got to leave for a little while," says a uniformed bus driver as he strolls off the opening pages. "I thought he'd never leave," says the big-eyed pigeon as he marches onto the next spread and begins his campaign to drive the bus. His tactics, addressed to an unseen audience, are many: he reasons ("I tell you what: I'll just steer"); he whines ("I never get to do anything!"); he's creative ("Let's play 'Drive the Bus!' I'll go first"); he bargains ("C'mon! Just once around the block!"). Finally he erupts in a feather-flying tantrum, followed by a drooping sulk that ends only when a truck arrives, and new road fantasies begin. Librarians may struggle with the endpapers, which contain important story content, but the design is refreshingly minimal, focusing always on the pigeon; he's the only image on nearly every earth-toned spread. Willems is a professional animator, and each page has the feel of a perfectly frozen frame of cartoon footage--action, remarkable expression, and wild humor captured with just a few lines. Preschoolers will howl over the pigeon's dramatics, even as they recognize that he wheedles, blows up, and yearns to be powerful just like they do. *Gillian Engberg*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Chris Bynum:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important for people. The book Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! ended up being making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The book Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! is not only giving you considerably more new information but also to be your friend when you feel bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship using the book Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!. You never experience lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

Helen Thibodeaux:

The e-book untitled Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! is the reserve that recommended to you you just read. You can see the quality of the reserve content that will be shown to an individual. The language that writer use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The author was did a lot of study when write the book, to ensure the information that they share for your requirements is absolutely accurate. You also will get the e-book of Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! from the publisher to make you far more enjoy free time.

Sheldon McLean:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day every day to reading a publication. The book Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book possesses high quality.

Nola Schroeder:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition details. Even you love Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!, you could enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its called reading friends.

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