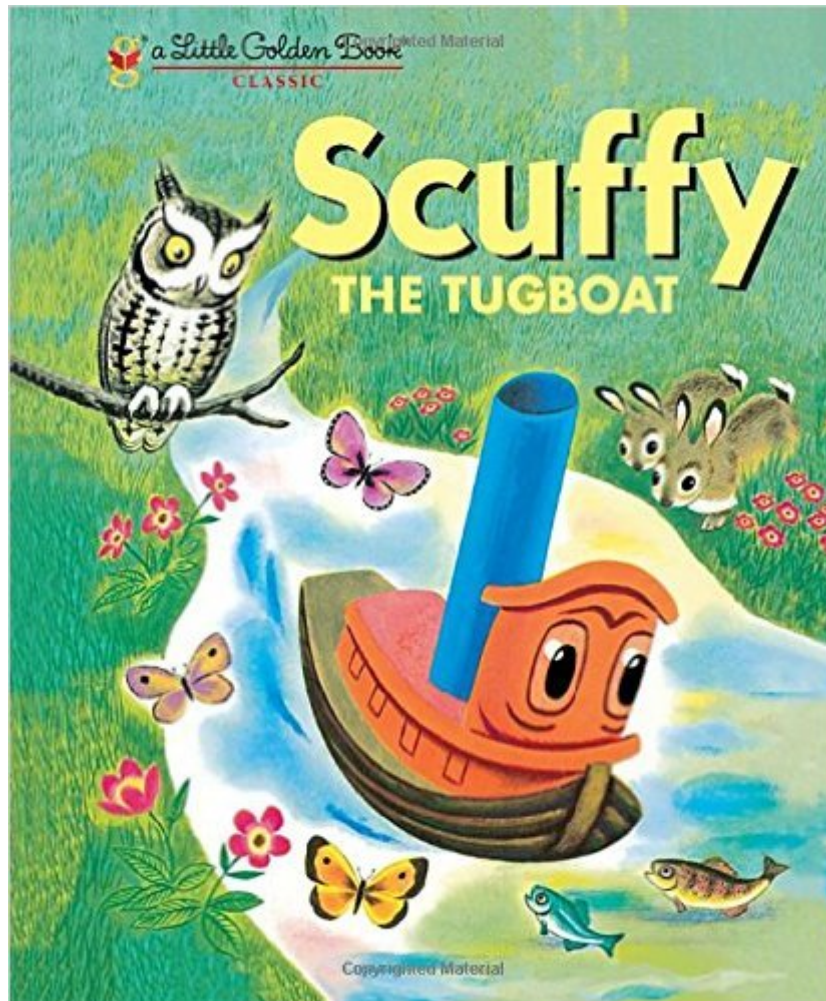


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Scuffy The Tugboat And His Adventures Down The River



Synopsis

Scuffy the Tugboat sets off to explore the world, but soon learns that he is happiest sailing in his bathtub.

Book Information

Series: Little Golden Book

Hardcover: 24 pages

Publisher: Golden Books; English Language edition (January 31, 2001)

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Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 0.2 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (151 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #5,430 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Boats & Ships #412 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

If the world's cynical intellectuals find this book threatening and offensive, it's only because they can't stop admiring themselves in the mirror or updating their resumes long enough to "get it". What we're supposed to take from reading Scuffy the Tugboat is NOT "play it safe - don't follow your dreams", but "maybe, just maybe your dreams aren't all they're cracked up to be". Who among us has never pursued something in life, only to realize, "hey, wait a minute, this wasn't what I thought it would be" or "it wasn't supposed to work out like this"? Dreams (to say nothing of the "it's-all-about-me" movement) are transitory and ephemeral. I know The Perfect among us live in denial when it comes to regrets, but for the rest of us, this book reminds us that it's never too late to turn back or change your mind. As far as "empowerment" goes, what could be more empowering than being reunited with those who really love you? I've learned more from Scuffy than I did while receiving a college education. That children can understand what it's all about only increases my admiration. Highest of all possible recommendations!

In the early 1950's I was introduced to the wonders of the the world when my parents bought me "Scuffy". Who would have believed that a little red-painted tugboat could captivate me for nearly 50 years. Scuffy, the brave and somewhat feisty little red- painted tugboat, tires of his existence of living in the toystore owned by the "man with the polka dot tie" and states that he was meant for "bigger things". The bigger things leads Scuffy on an odyssey through quiet mountain brooks, singing streams, rushing rivers, floods and eventually the sea. On his journey, Scuffy meets cows, men in "great boots" pushing logs, victims of floods and the scariness of the big city. As Scuffy hurtles towards his ultimate destiny, the sea, he longs for the joy and comfort of the toy store and the love of the man with the polka dot tie. Just as Scuffy is about to pass the last piece of land, prior to entering the eternal sea, the man with the polka dot tie catches the frightened red- painted tugboat with the blue smokestack and returns him to the toystore and his new domain, the safe and calming waters of the bathtub. A delightful work that will surely be requested night after night by children. It was my favourite and my daughter's favourite.

I loved Scuffy the Tugboat as a kid, and like Scuffy I wanted to do big things. I did do big things and I want my kids to do big things too. That's why I bought this book to read to them, though it was hard to find. There's something comforting to a child's mind to know that Scuffy is right: that there are bigger things out there than his bathtub. He goes out and sees the big world and the worst that happens to him is that he is scared. But his safe bathtub is still there to come home to. And even though we adults know that Scuffy will always be a toy and will never do big things, kids know that one day they will grow up and may be ready to see the big world and do big things. But until they grow up, their safe little bathtub will always be there to come home to. That's not how we adults logically see the book, but it is a story for children, and they don't draw conclusions based on a life of experience as we do.

"Scuffy the Tugboat" is a classic in childrens literature. It has an almost iconic status with people who grew up in the early Baby Boomer years. Way back in 1946, toy stores were quiet uncrowded places. In one toy shop there was a rocking horse, a GI Joe Doll and a few cuddly soft toys and one grumpy red painted tugboat called Scuffy. Scuffy was ambitious. He thought he was meant for bigger things, than just sailing in a bathtub. The toy shop owner (with his memorable polka dot tie) and his little boy, took Scuffy off to a laughing brook. It was springtime and the brook was running fast. Scuffy was soon off on his adventure. The pastoral world he passed through seemed placid, but at night the hooting owl gave him a fright. The river got bigger and busier. Scuffy was

proud because he knew it was HIS river. He was nearly squashed between two logs that were on their way to the sawmill. With the spring melt a great flood burst the rivers banks. A lady and her cow had to be rescued off her roof. Pushed along by the floodwaters Scuffy arrived in the big city. It was a very noisy and busy place. When Scuffy tooted nobody noticed. Scuffy was just about to be swept out to sea. He wished the man with the polka dot tie and his little boy could rescue him. Miracle of miracles, there they were just as Scuffy was about to pass the last bit of land. He was rescued. Scuffy realises that sailing in the bathtub is not such a bad thing in fact he said "this is the life for me". The illustrations by Tibor Gergely are what make this book so appealing. The scenes are full of life and activity, be it the pastoral river scene with its friendly animals and the colourful towns and cities. Look for the details in the city scene. Try to find the horses. Tibor Gergely was a great children's book illustrator from this period. In addition to his artwork in Scuffy you can enjoy his illustrations in those other "Little Golden Book" classics, "The Little Red Caboose" and "Tootle". These three books are perfect companions in any young person's library.

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