



# Accident!

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## Accident! Andrea Tsurumi

When a clumsy armadillo named Lola knocks over a glass pitcher, she sets off a silly chain of events, encountering chaos wherever she goes. But accidents happen—just ask the stoat snarled in spaghetti, the airborne sheep, and the bull who has broken a whole shop's worth of china. In the tradition of beloved books like *The Dot* and *Beautiful Oops*, this charming, hilarious debut from author-illustrator Andrea Tsurumi shows that mistakes don't have to be the end of the world.

## Accident! Details

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Author : Andrea Tsurumi

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## From Reader Review Accident! for online ebook

### **Gina says**

This is a strong 5 star review! I loved the detail and the expressive faces of all the animals as accidents snowball across the town.

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### **? Kimberly says**

Accident! by Andrea Tsurumi, touches on the fear children have when they make a mistake. With over the top illustrations and frantic worry, children will identify with the feelings each animal experiences when they make a mistake. While I was disappointed the dialogue didn't discuss more, it does open the door for that conversation with your child or students. I loved the illustrations, and after we read, we played a "Where is Waldo" type of game. I had Sophia find objects on some of the busy pages. This is slightly out of the Royals reading range, but one they enjoyed. Clayton thought the cover tasted exceptional good. It now has little teeth marks in the corner.

Copy provided by the publisher. This review was originally posted at Caffeinated Reviewer

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### **Steph says**

Shoot. I can only rate this up to five stars, and I want to give it five MILLION stars.

This book is perfection.

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### **Edward Sullivan says**

A riotously hilarious take on how children frantically worry about mistakes.

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### **Sara says**

I love the manic-Richard-Scarry vibe of the illustrations. You could sit and pore over them for hours and find all kinds of hilarious little scenes. And of course I love that they head to the library when things get bad. There's a nice message at the end: don't freak out if something goes wrong, just apologize and help clean up.

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### **Jessica Furtado says**

Great variety of words for building vocabulary and teaching about synonyms. The illustrations are

wonderfully busy, leaving something new to discover even if you read this one a dozen times. Also a nice tool for showing kiddos that even when things go wrong there is always the opportunity to make things right. Lastly, I love that the characters decide to run away to the library "at least till they're grownups" because that's basically my plan in life.

Bonus activity for this book: make a list of items for your child to find while you read, and this busy book becomes an awesome look-and-find.

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### **Stephanie Tournas says**

A young armadillo named Lola spills a pitcher of punch on the furniture. She is mortified and decides to run away to the library to hide for the rest of her life! Along the way she finds other animals who have run into trouble, so the cumulative story ends with all of the animals and a huge catastrophe in the library. And the library is where a little bird tells Lola that she had an accident, and that now it's time to make it better. I love the detailed illustrations, which are a mashup of Matt Groening and Richard Scarry. There is so much humor and movement that readers could spend hours identifying and laughing at the myriad accidents depicted. The endpapers and the cover beneath the book jacket offer even more to see. And I love the redemptive act of acknowledging your mistake. This is a clever and entertaining book that I highly recommend.

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### **Donalyn says**

So much going on in these amazing illustrations!

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### **Tasha says**

Lola spills juice all over a chair and decides to run away and hide in the library until she's a grownup. As she runs to the library, Lola meets a series of other animals having their own accidents and disasters. She takes them all with her to the library. But soon the disasters multiply as they run, turning the entire town into chaos. Even the library itself is soon a catastrophe. Then the little red bird explains that these are all just accidents and they should make it better. So each animal returns to the mess they have made and fixes things with apologies, help and towels. Throughout this picture book the pace gets faster and faster as the accidents build up and up. The illustrations are filled with small details and it's worth slowing down and noticing all of the little touches of disaster as the pages get more chaotic. A book that celebrates taking responsibility even in the face of the ultimate mess. Appropriate for ages 3-6.

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### **Emily says**

Loved finding this in the NPR Book Concierge! As Lola runs away from the scene of her "crime" (a spilled pitcher of juice), she encounters even more fellow animals with hilarious/tragic catastrophes of their own. The art makes for richly rewarding re-reads--you'll notice a new background situation every time through!--and the story offers an important lesson about how and why it's important to own up to the accidents that sometimes happen to, or because of, us all.

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## Betsy says

There is no accident so small that a forward thinking six-year-old can't turn it into World War III.

You see, there are certain things they won't tell you when you prepare to become a parent. They'll conveniently fail to mention the sheer amount of personal injury you'll endure when your children treat your body like a playground 24/7. They'll decline to say how the decibel level in your home will reach previously unattainable heights. And most important of all, they won't give you the 411 on knowing what to do when your child looks upon a small accident/tear/rip/broken banana and declares to you that the world, as we know it, has come to an end. Telling the child that they are mistaken in this belief has 0% of a chance of changing their mind. Trust me. I know. The best you can do is to try to remedy the situation, inevitably with mixed results. A number of recent picture books over the last few years have attempted to show kids the use and beauty of mistakes ( *Ish* by Peter Reynolds, *The Book of Mistakes* by Corinna Luyken, *The Most Magnificent Thing* by Ashley Spires, etc.) but that's a little different from what I'm talking about here. I think there's room enough in this world for books that show actual mistakes (not "opportunities") and stress the value in owning up to them and making good. After all, in this day and age there are plenty of adults out there that could learn that lesson for themselves.

Lola is doing handstands. Lola is doing cartwheels. Lola is not looking where she is going. As a result, a large pitcher of a bright orange liquid has been knocked from its precarious perch onto a pure white chair. Panicked, Lola comes to the lightning fast decision to run away to the library. She'll just hole up there until she's a grown-up and all of this has been forgotten. Yet as Lola runs she sees more and more animals making "fiascos", "spills", "slips" and general "mayhem" all around. And when Lola discovers that the library is not the oasis of calm and quiet she had hoped for, she and everyone else must name their deeds for what they are and find a way to make good.

First and foremost let's just own up to the elephant in the room. Andrea Tsurumi is a latter day Tove Jansson. For example, in *Lola*, our heroine, I see more than a speck of Sniff. And like Jansson and her long-lasting Moomins, Tsurumi utilizes a precise use of pen-and-ink (or "graphite on Bristol vellum" aided and abetted by digital color, if you want to be precise). It is not the only weapon in Tsurumi's arsenal, and if you've an interest in investigating a rabbit hole I highly recommend plunging headfirst in the artist's website and blog for a couple spare hours. In fact, I was very grateful to her for clarifying that Lola is not, as I would have at first assumed, a pangolin but is rather an armadillo. As for the colors in the story, it's a strategically limited palette. Green, blue, gray, coral, yellow, and red vie for attention but hardly stray out of the confines of these hues. It's nice. Even if the book is chaotic there's something constrained and orderly at work here to keep everything from falling apart.

To enjoy this book fully it is good to have a fine eye for meticulously crafted chaos. That, apparently, is Ms. Tsurumi's specialty and we can all sit glad in the knowledge that she found her calling as soon as she did. Some of the greatest picture book illustrators of all time have known how to corral chaos. Dr. Seuss. Mark Allan Stamaty. Of course the godfather of the unrepentant cacophony of confusion is undeniably Richard Scarry. I refer you to *A Day at the Fire Station* for the most extreme example, but even his tamer fare always contained some stray element of bedlam. To this list we add Andrea Tsurumi readily.

What Tsurumi does so well is overwhelm the small reader with detail. A certain strain of child rises to the challenge when an illustrator like this asks them to locate every single example of mistakes on a page. Part of

what I enjoyed so much about the book, though, was the way in which Tsurumi builds the action. The mistakes start small at the start and then multiply in numbers. Some are great and grand and obvious, involving broken chinaware and falling bookshelves. Others are so slight and small you could miss them if you blinked. One personal favorite involves a bear serving a chicken an egg, only realizing too late what she has done. There are also some callbacks in the final clean-up scene. There you'll see that the toucan that wet himself earlier is wearing new pants, the bull in the china shop has attempted to tape together a vase (complete with apologetic flower), and even the goose that gave a horse a wrong haircut has made it work in some manner. Popped balloons have been exchanged for pinwheels, smooshed cakes for cupcakes, and all is well and right with the world.

The sole critique I might have about the book is the choice to give the book some kind of narration. It's a superfluous choice. You can get the entire storyline from the dialogue and lose very little. Admittedly, I liked it when I ran across sentences like "So Lola ran away from her mess and right into everyone else's" but as pleasant as that sounds, it's unnecessary to the story. I wonder if Tsurumi originally wrote the book without the extra words and was encouraged to add them later, or if they were a part of the text from the start. They don't detract, so this book remains one of my favorites of the year, but it does make for curious reading.

There's an episode of *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood* (scoff not – that stuff works) where the topic of making mistakes was addressed. The advice from the show was for folks to apologize and then ask, "How can I make it better?" This book covers very much the same ground, just in a different manner. When we own up and take responsibility for our actions, words, and deeds, only then can we begin to make amends. Heady stuff for a book this whimsical and downright funny, but there you are. A delight from start to finish with a message worth considering, kids and parents alike will get a lot out of what Tsurumi's serving here. A classic in the making.

For ages 3-6.

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### **Laura G says**

Depicts animal characters making hundreds of mistakes--like spilling juice on a chair, breaking the swings, and hundreds of other messes. The perpetrators run away to hide at the library (where they have books and bathrooms), passing many other characters who are making all kinds of mistakes of their own. The message of the book is that these mishaps aren't really calamities or disasters, but merely accidents that can be remedied. The illustrations are very busy; I didn't have enough patience to stop and look at each accident that was depicted, but if I had a child on my lap, that would be great fun. A detail that bothered me (!) was the big, bold word CATASTROPHE broken up like CAT-AS-TRO-PHE (wouldn't CA-TAS- be correct and better?). Anyway, a fun and helpful read with a younger child.

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### **Earl says**

Delightful and entertaining about making mistakes and not being too hard on oneself. I also love that it's about rectifying mistakes. Lots of details in the illustrations to pore over. Worth a reread or two!

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**Mary Lee says**

Love the permission given in this book to dial back on the mistakes (disasters, chaos, etc) we make and realize they are accidents that we can apologize for, help to clean up, and move on from!

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**Garrett says**

Dear Public,

Do not bring your mess into the library.

Love,  
A library worker

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