



Crickle-Crack

Stephen Cosgrove , Robin James (Illustrations)

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After countless phone calls and letters from fans, we've brought back these time-honored tales. Sharing life lessons and memorable morals, the Serendipity books are a seasoned favorite with children and parents alike. So, journey to the magical, mystical land of Serendipity with these four cherished editions featuring newly revised text from the author. A sweet young squirrel named Squeakers is scampering through the forest when he comes upon a dangerous Crickle-Crack tree. He knows he should stay away, but curiosity gets the best of him. Squeakers learns the hard way that some things are best left alone.

Crickle-Crack Details

Date : Published July 23rd 2001 by Price Stern Sloan (first published 1978)

ISBN : 9780843176483

Author : Stephen Cosgrove , Robin James (Illustrations)

Format : Paperback 32 pages

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From Reader Review Crickle-Crack for online ebook

Kate says

I loved these books as a kid, I thought the illustrations were really great (I think it was the big pretty eyes...). I remember this story was about a squirrel who really liked combing her tail and looking pretty... I'm sure there was a moral to the story but I don't remember what it was. The title doesn't even sound familiar, but I definitely remember this cover!

note: The above plot is from the book Squeakers. This book is basically about drug addiction... in squirrels. Hmm...

Jamie says

I love most serendipity books but this particular one is a bit of a disappointment compared to the others in the collection. The lesson is a bit muddled in the end and needs more explaining to kids than some of their other books. It just feels like an overall rushed project. Still a decent book but not spectacular. The artwork is still adorable.

Julia says

This book doesn't exactly read or feels that it belongs to the Serendipity series probably since of the importance of the message while I think it is geared for an older crowd than the usual collection of Serendipity readers.

The pictures follow along with the text - dark and ominous. And it is a bit bothersome that the tree ends up growing again but at first I thought there would be another poor addicted critter to job Squeakers.

I guess with the tree growing back it is a slight message that evil never totally leaves and you must always be vigilant for you never know where it is going to pop-up next.

Devon Gregory says

I read this book probably in the second or third grade. It's basically about a drug-addicted squirrel, and that is literally the only context that can make crippling substance abuse adorable. The themes this book deals with may be a bit heavy for today's children. I grew up in the 80's, when things like "caring about your kids" and "helicopter parenting" didn't exist, so we needed things like books and Nancy Reagan to tell us to "just say no". I'm not saying this book kept me off crack, but I've never done crack, and I'd like to think Serendipity books played a (very) small part in that.

Jennie says

As with most Serendipity Books, the drawings are really captivating and adorable. I was amused by how frank the message of this story is; Squeakers is basically suffering from a drug addiction. I loved reading this book to children at the library when I was a volunteer.

Michelle M says

It's about a cute, wide-eyed squirrel in the forest ... and CRACK (yes, the drug)! Most of the pictures and a third of the story are at a preschool level, but the story is way to dark for most kids below third grade! I'd like to hear a grade schooler's opinion.

Age: PG

Kest Schwartzman says

I... did not expect the serendipity books to take on the crack epidemic, but, well, they did. And not in a subtle way, either.

Amelia says

This one didn't strike my chord quite as much as some of the others. Maybe I'm thick-headed or something, but I didn't get the storyline exactly. The Crickle-Crack tree seemed out of place. I'm probably overthinking this very simple children's book. I guess I really didn't like that the tree was growing back. I would think that all the creatures would go back and make sure it's completely destroyed.

Leigh says

Children's books about beating drug addiction FTW! <3

Thea says

This book rules. Squeakers gets addicted to crickle crack... Gotta read it for the part where he is hippy dancing!

Anie says

A children's book on drugs. Mostly highly amusing (heavy-handed even when I was little) and actually

pretty enjoyable.

Angela Oliver says

Crickle-crack is more text intensive than the Serendipity books I have already reviewed, and contains a rather more serious message. It is aimed, I would say, at the 5-8 age group because, quite simply, it is a story about the evil influence of drugs.

The crickle-crack is a twisted and gnarled tree, which produces mutated little flowers that only bud and never blossom. Little Squeakers, a charming and playful young squirrel, hears tales about this unpleasant tree and stumbles upon it one day - and it lures him into tasting its stunted white buds. The first tastes bitter, but it makes him happy ("...dancing to songs that had never been sung..."), so he takes another... and another... before he knows it the day is over and he's missed school. He heads home and lies to his mother. The buds give him nightmares but he continues to take more, and embarrasses himself at school the next day.

Overall, the message is rather unsubtle, the illustrations slightly darker and less filled with whimsical charm. Of course, it might not just be drugs - it could be sugar, or caffeine, but the message remains the same - "it's important to know when to say 'no'".
