



## Always Remember

*Cece Meng , Jago (Illustrations)*

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**Always Remember** Cece Meng , Jago (Illustrations)

**A lyrically told, beautifully illustrated book that brings comfort to children--and adults--who have lost someone they love**

After Old Turtle swims his last swim and breathes his last breath, and the waves gently take him away, his friends lovingly remember how he impacted each and every one of them. As the sea animals think back on how much better Old Turtle made their lives and their world, they realize that he is not truly gone, because his memory and legacy will last forever.

Jago's gorgeous illustrations accompany Cece Meng's serene text in a book that will help children understand and cope with the death of a loved one.

## Praise for *Always Remember*:

"Without mentioning a deity or religion, the text discusses how people remember those who have died and how their lives live on beyond them. Understated, unsentimental, and gently done."--*Kirkus Reviews*

"A sweet and poignant story with multiple layers for delving deeper."--*School Library Journal*

"This makes a comforting choice for families dealing with loss."--*Booklist*

## Always Remember Details

Date : Published February 16th 2016 by Philomel Books

ISBN : 9780399168093

Author : Cece Meng , Jago (Illustrations)

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## **From Reader Review Always Remember for online ebook**

### **Danielle says**

Such a great technique here, that Old Turtle "swam his last swim and took his last breath" on the very first page. We get to know him through the memories of the other ocean animals. The story serves as a tribute to Old Turtle and a lesson that loved ones (and we) live on through the lives we touch.

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### **Samantha says**

A comforting story in which many ocean creatures recall the ways in which Old Turtle touched their lives and how his spirit will live on in the their hearts and minds.

I like the approach here with Old Turtle passing and then looking back at the tender moments he shared with different ocean friends. The repeating phrase "and the (fill-in-the-blank) would always remember" was such a nice reflective pause between each scene.

The digital artwork is stunning and just as vibrant as the creatures and landscape it depicts. Highly recommended for young readers struggling with a recent loss ages PreK-2+.

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### **Morgan says**

Casually grabbed this book off of the new cart because the cover caught my eye -- cut to me weeping silently at my desk as I poured over this gorgeously rendered story about life, loss, and the legacy our loved ones leave behind. Finally, a gentle picture book about death that pays tribute to the life that came before.

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### **Amy says**

I would recommend this book as a family read-together in the event of the loss of a loved one. I think it can be meaningful for the loss of a person or even work for the loss of a beloved pet. The beautiful illustrations combined with a smooth flow of calm words provides a gentle approach to a difficult subject. It made me cry (remembering people I've lost and the great memories I had of them), but it also made me feel happy. A colleague and I even wished we could have been friends with the Old Turtle..he sounded like such a great friend. :)

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### **Kristi says**

This utterly beautifully illustrated book is a perfect book to hand someone who is trying to understand the loss of a loved one (pet, family member, friend) regardless of belief system. I love that different friends of Old Turtle treasure different qualities that he had shown. The turtles remember that he was a good teacher.

The whales remember that he was a good friend. The otters remember that he loved to have fun. The dolphins remembered that he loved to explore and discover. The starfish remembered that he was kind. The manatees remembered he was strong and determined. Gorgeous and excellent book that handles death and loss without being overly saccharine or pushing an agenda.

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### **Sara Gochowski says**

Always Remember from Cece Meng and Jago is a quiet, thoughtful book about life, death, and legacy. No matter your age, the loss of a loved one is difficult to process and accept. I've been asked on multiple occasions for picture books to help explain the death of a family member or pet to a child, but I don't think I've found one I love quite as much as Always Remember. Highly recommended.

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### **Baby Bookworm says**

*This review was originally written for The Baby Bookworm. Visit us for new picture books reviews daily!*

Hello friends! Today, we read *Always Remember*, written by Cece Meng and illustrated by Jago, a heartbreakingly beautiful story about losing a loved one.

On his last day, Old Turtle goes for one last swim and takes one last breath, then the sea takes him back. His friends are sad and miss him, but they remember stories from his life: moments when he was brave, kind, funny and smart. They remember these stories and pass them on and, in doing so, Old Turtle is never forgotten.

I can't begin to say how much this book touched me. To begin, it's a beautiful book: the undersea art is breathtaking. The text is easy to read aloud, and the length is fine for baby bookworms. But most of all, this is a meaningful way to teach children about death; not what happens to the person who died (which can vary wildly based on what your beliefs are), but what happens to those left behind, and how they cope with loss. The message that those who leave us live on in our memories is a powerful and comforting one.

On a personal note, JJ's great-grandfather (my grandfather) passed on a few months ago, and not long after we also lost my grandmother and my father. For JJ, all she will know of these remarkable people are the stories of them that we share with her. As a parent, and the current keeper of these stories, the notion is comforting, and hopeful. This is a beautiful book, and Baby Bookworm approved.

Be sure to check out The Baby Bookworm for more reviews!

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### **Jillian Heise says**

Gorgeous and lovely - this book speaks to grief in a compelling way. I especially appreciated the juxtaposition of the illustrations showing memories/current time and the accessibility of the message. I think if I had students dealing with loss in my classroom, this is a book I would hand them.

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### **Michele Knott says**

Fantastic story, heartprint story.

This will be a perfect story to use to help comfort a young reader with the loss of a loved one.

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### **Dylan Teut says**

Beautiful. I am sobbing.

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### **Jill says**

Beautifully illustrated picture book about the impact one life can have on the world. An old turtle dies and the book reflects upon those who will always remember him. This is a good book if you have a child dealing with the loss of a loved one. It's tough to sit down with a child and have a discussion about death and grieving, but this book might be a way to start a conversation. It gently tells the reader that those who are living will carry the memory of those who died, so the one who dies is not really gone.

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### **Sylvester says**

5\* art

4\* story

I didn't realize at first that this was a book about death or loss - I just saw the beautiful turtle on the front and dropped the book into my library bag, thinking how Squirt and I love anything about turtles. So I was a page or two into reading it to him that night before I clued in. Squirt just listened to me tell about the turtle and how his friends would remember all the good things about him as they went on living their lives. So the story, while muted, still works even when there hasn't been a loss. That being said, I think this would be a good book for kids who *\*have\** lost a loved one. It's gentle, and so beautifully illustrated, I think it would be comforting.

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### **Julia says**

This was one book that was recommended to me and I wasn't quite sure what I would be getting into. It is hard for people to write about death and for me to right now be reading about the Circus Fire of 1944 it can also be quite a heartrending topic as well as one that brings up to the limelight how will we be remembered, especially if it is so hard for the living to identify the dead.

This is one story that explores the life of an old sea turtle by introducing the reader to his end. They review what he has done through his life, how he has touched those around him and thus sharing his testimony piece

by piece. Although in many cases the story would be a sad one it is also one of hope, of remembrance, rest and what can be passed on to the next generations thus his story really has never ended has it? A beautiful tribute altogether.

The illustrations are some of the most beautiful as they capture the ocean in different facets of its being - brightly colored, dark and a mixture of all the above. The old turtle makes an appearance in the illustrations while the majority of the animals who we are introduced to have little ones to reemphasize the message that life continues as well as good works do so as well. And the animals even though they aren't full realistic are realistic enough so that the reader isn't struggling to figure out what species is being used in the telling.

In the end this is one book that touches me and wants me to be more like the old sea turtle. As I told my bf if I should die I want this book to be read at my funeral and so it seems like I will eventually have to buy my own copy to have it on hand. Not a bad investment and one book of lost that I can see myself returning to time over time again for comfort.

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### **Jana says**

This is a beautiful picture book that deals with the subject death in a very appropriate and heartwarming way. At the opening of the book, an old sea turtle has passed away: "In the end, on his very last day, Old Turtle swam his last swim and took his last breath. With his life complete, the gentle waves took him away." The pages after that show each of Old Turtles friends remembering things he taught them, ways he made them happy, and ways he helped them when they were in trouble. The digitally created artwork is lovely. This would be a great book to help young people, or anyone for that matter, deal with the difficult topic of death.

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### **Lynn says**

Shelve this with "The Fall of Freddie the Leaf: A Story of Life for All Ages" by Leo Buscaglia! The text here gives hope to the reader and goes beyond "Freddie" to give encouragement & importance to keep telling the stories of those gone.

Dark blue & green illustrations give the underwater, ocean feel, contrasted with bright colors that bring hope and focus on those he helped.

I'm not sure youngsters will understand the phrase that begins the book, "In the end..." as really only the beginning of remembering.

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