



## Off & Away

*Cale Atkinson*

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How would you get mail if you lived in the middle of the sea? It's Jo's dad's job to deliver it, taking bottles wherever they need to go. He always comes home with exciting stories to tell—but Jo is far too afraid to go out on the ocean herself. Until Dad gets a bad sea cold, that is. With no one but Jo to deliver the bottles, she must find her courage and set sail alone. As she embarks on her mission, her fears just might be replaced with new friendships . . . and grand stories of her own.

With beautiful, atmospheric art and endearing new characters by author-illustrator Cale Atkinson, this picturebook is a treasure.

## Off & Away Details

Date : Published June 5th 2018 by Disney-Hyperion

ISBN : 9781484782323

Author : Cale Atkinson

Format : Hardcover 44 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Adventure, Fantasy, Storytime

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## From Reader Review Off & Away for online ebook

### **Jillian Heise says**

I am in love with this story & adore Jo's bravery in the face of her fears, and what she realizes about those fears in the end. Her determination is inspiring and the details with the juxtaposition of the fantastical sea creatures against the reality adds suspense to her journey and connection for readers. Sometimes we all just need to take a deep breath and cast off into the unknown. Cale gives readers so much detail to pour over and discover in these illustrations, and the way the light and sky enhance the mood of the journey draws you into the adventure. This was such a fun adventure to go on. I think this is Cale's best book yet, and I can't wait for more!

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### **Michele Knott says**

Cale writes books that has kids coming back for readings over and over again. Not only do I love this story, I love finding new details in the illustrations.

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### **Meredith Spidel says**

This is such a sweet, creative picture book for young kiddos, encouraging them to find their inner strength. Love how it taps into the mystery of what DOES happen to those messages in bottles too! Thanks for sending an ARC our way for review, Disney!

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### **Ruby says**

Cale Atkinson is a great storyteller and one of my most favorite illustrators. I would enjoy a print of every page of artwork in this book. So colorful and bright, the story is about a little girl (who is wonderfully brown) who faces her fears and delivers bottles to creatures after her father becomes ill. By the end, she becomes braver than even her father and makes friends along the way. Although it's not my favorite Atkinson book, I enjoyed every bit of this fun story.

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### **Alex (Briennai) says**

This book is an adorable tale of a little girl and her father who delivers bottles to the residents of the sea. Jo is scared of what might be out there, but she loves to hear her father tell her stories about it. When her father comes down with a sea cold, Jo sees the bottles starting to pile up. She realizes that it is up to her to get the bottles out to the residents of the sea, and so she has to start off on an adventure of her own.

Let me start off by saying that this is the first picture book that I have had the opportunity to review, and this definitely did not disappoint. For starters, the art. The art in this book was adorable, yet beautifully detailed

at the same time. Every page gave me another beautiful image full of vibrant colors. I found myself showing the book to my family, just so that they could see how pretty the art was!

Secondly, I was happy that this is a diverse picture book. So few picture books have characters that come from different cultures or backgrounds, but this one proudly advertises a brown girl and her father. This would allow even more children who read this book to relate to the main character!

Even though this was just a fun picture book, there were several morals in this story. Jo thinks that monsters live in the ocean and so she has to overcome this fear to do her father's job. This teaches bravery. She also learns in this book that the "monsters" she feared so much were actually quite friendly creatures. She also learns how to be independent by going off on her own without the help of her father, and succeeding on her mission.

This has been one of the most rich picture books that I have ever read, and I will definitely be re-reading it a few times just to admire the amazing art and story. Even if you are an adult, take a break and relax by reading this book!

I would recommend this book to anyone looking for a new picture book with morals and amazing art, or anyone looking for a relaxing story.

I received an advanced copy of this book and this is my voluntary review.

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### **Emily says**

Great story about a girl who faces her fears, and finds that monsters are not behind every lurking corner. This would be great for a bedtime book to help little ones face their fears.

Facing fears  
adventures  
sailing  
friends

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### **Jared White says**

Jo's dad is a message bottle delivery man who always comes home with the best stories but Jo never joins him because she's scared of what might lie beneath the waves or through the fog. Then Jo's dad gets sick and the bottles keep piling up, what's Jo to do? Will she face her fears and discover what awaits? You'll have to read and see! :)

A beautiful and cute book about overactive imaginations and how they can make little fears seem really big and sometimes cause you to be afraid when there's nothing to be feared after all.

I have always had an overactive imagination. To illustrate this, thanks to a Twilight Zone episode that I saw when I was young, I was scared of storms for like 4 years (like to the pit of my stomach, can't sleep when I heard thunder scared). In other words, I can definitely relate to this book and think it may help some other

timid, would-be adventurers.

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### **Christina Carter says**

Jo's dad has a pretty awesome job. He works for Off & Away Message in a Bottle Delivery, making sure that every bottle gets to the right home. When he comes down with an awful cold, Jo is left with the mighty big task of filling her dad's shoes. But how will she do it when she is afraid of what awaits her beyond the shore? What will it take to help her rise above her fears?

I always admire the work of those who are both author and illustrator. What a talent Cale Atkinson has to bring his stories to life the way that he does with such vividly colorful illustrations that make the reader feel like they are a part of the experience. I was right there with Jo as she braved the dangers that lurked in the sea. And I was there when she overcame them as well. Jo didn't let anything stop her and it made me feel as though I could conquer the world too.

I already ordered Off & Away for my K-5 library and I can't wait to set sail on this adventure with my students.

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### **Lee Födi says**

I really love the bright and beautiful illustrations that populate Cale Atkinson's books. Our picture book shelf is full of his books, both the ones he's illustrated for authors, and the ones he has written AND illustrated. Off & Away falls into the latter category, and lives up to Atkinson's previous work. The pictures are sumptuous and details, offering new and hidden details to be discovered in re-readings. I'm a particular fan of the "monster" characters, which are bursting with personality and somehow manage to be cute and menacing at the same time. The illustrations have a classic, nostalgic quality to them, which I think is partly due to the style, but also to the compositions. You can lose yourself in the endpapers!

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### **Gmr says**

From cover to cover, this was a grand adventure filled with mysterious messages, hidden dangers, and a WHOLE lot of heart! Jo's Dad has a unique job....making sure messages in bottles get to their intended recipients. But what happens when the messenger is sick? Who's going to take over the reigns and get the job done? Jo? Oh no...she's got a massively active imagination and let's face it, you can't exactly see what's below the seas now can you? Right, so there you go...but if not her, than who? This charming tale reminds us that sometimes it's not about us or our fears, but about the greater good and the ability to help a friend in need is a great thing indeed. Be sure to check out the artwork that adorns each page as it's truly magical...and don't forget to look for the "undie" cover for another surprise!

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\*\*copy received for review

## **Deb (Readerbuzz) Nance says**

Jo must help her dad deliver all the message-in-a-bottle bottles to their correct homes when her dad falls ill. She bravely ventures out to all the remote and scary places, even to a place her dad had never visited.

Off & Away is a story full of kid appeal, with bright and deliciously scary-looking monsters, lots of fun adventures, and a main character who overcomes her fears and makes new friends.

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## **Cindy Mitchell \*Kiss the Book\* says**

Off & Away by Cale Atkinson. PICTURE BOOK. Disney Hyperion, 2018. \$17. 9781484782323

Pre-K, EL (K-3) – ESSENTIAL

Jo wants to deliver messages in bottles just like her adventuring dad, but her imaginings of dangers below the surface of the ocean make her freeze instead. Then Dad gets so sick that it will be days, if not weeks before he can deliver the backlog. Can Jo find the courage to take to the ocean?

I am in love with Jo, of course, and with Cale's expertly crafted book – both words and illustrations. I can't wait to see more from this author/illustrator!

Cindy, Library Teacher  
<https://kissthebook.blogspot.com/2018...>

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## **Scottsdale Public Library says**

Jo may think she's no adventurer, yet she actually takes on the biggest adventure of her young life when she sets sail and conquers her own fears. This story is a fantastic way to show kids that it's okay to be afraid but do something anyways...and they might just be surprised by the outcome and themselves. -Jennifer K.

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## **Laura Mossa says**

I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Jo always wanted to be a great adventurer like her dad, but her apprehension about what lurked below the sea always kept her from stepping off their dock. When Jo's dad falls ill and bottles keep piling up, Jo takes a deep breath in before embarking on a courageous journey. On her voyage, Jo soon realizes that appearances can be deceiving and she is in fact, a brave adventurer. Jo's heroic actions reminded me of a great quote from *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman.

“Being brave doesn’t mean you aren’t scared. Being brave means you are scared, really scared, badly scared, and you do the right thing anyway.”

I am a big fan of Cale Atkinson's books and Off & Away is "sea-sational!" It is a touching and uplifting story about having the courage to face your fears. The gorgeous illustrations are full of such details that a re-read is essential just for viewing the beautiful and intricate artwork.

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### **Stephanie says**

I follow Cale Atkinson on social media platforms so I knew Off and Away was making its way into the world and could not wait to grab a copy of my own. We are huge fans of Cale's work because it is always so detailed with so much to see and find. Each reading of one of his fabulous stories reveals something we missed the first few times.

Off and Away, published by Disney-Hyperion is the story of Jo whose dad is a message in a bottle delivery man. When one day he comes down with a severe sea cold, Jo is left to deliver the messages for him. The only problem is Jo has never done that before as she is too terrified of what lurks below the water's surface. Mustering up all her courage, she sets sail.

It's a perfectly simple little story of courageousness and facing one's fears with so many surprises in store. Off and Away makes a fabulous read aloud and a great cuddle up story. We brought it on vacation with us and had to read it multiple times a day. The art is engaging and surprising, making us chuckle all the way through (penguins in bowties!!). Cale Atkinson's books simply make us feel good: they make us smile, they bring us joy, and they deliver messages of kindness, bravery, and friendship. His books always have a clever surprise under the jacket which carries through the theme of the book. Cale Atkinson's books are must haves in our home! Follow him on Twitter @2dcale for behind the scenes looks at process art from his picture books and sneak peaks at his upcoming work.

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