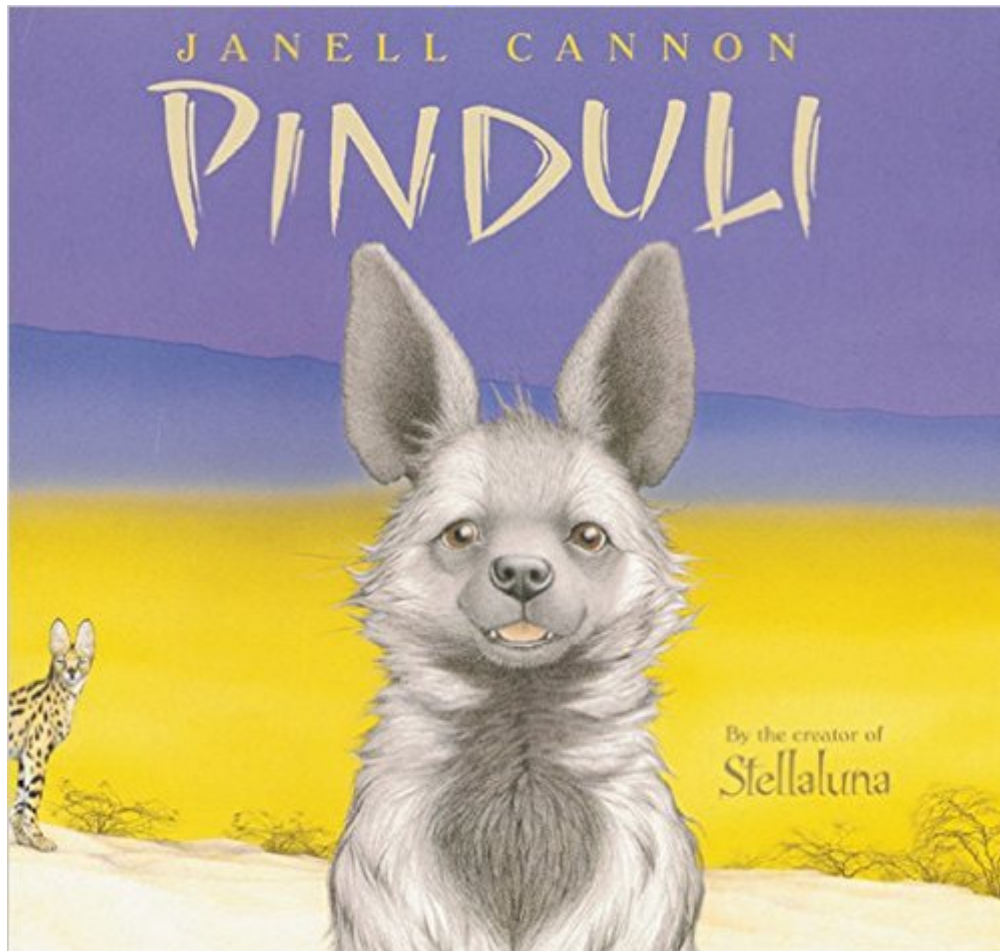


The book was found

Pinduli (ASPCA Henry Bergh Children's Book Awards)



Synopsis

Pinduli's mama has always told her that she's the most beautiful hyena ever. But Dog, Lion, and Zebra don't think so. Why else would they make her feel so rotten about her big ears, her fuzzy mane, and her wiggly stripes? Poor Pinduli just wants to disappear--and she tries everything she can think of to make that happen. Yet nothing goes her way. Nothing, that is, until a case of mistaken identity lets her show the creatures of the African savanna how a few tiny words--bad or good--can create something enormous. Janell Cannon, the creator of the bestselling *Stellaluna*, introduces yet another endearing character in this triumphant story about self-image, self-acceptance, and treating others with respect. Includes notes about hyenas and other animals of the African savanna.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 680L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; First Edition edition (September 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152046682

ISBN-13: 978-0152046682

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (41 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #51,884 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #36 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa](#) #86 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mammals](#) #335 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Pinduli's Mother has always tried to let her know that she is the most beautiful hyena in all the world. But not everyone feels that way, especially not Dog, Zebra, and Lion, for they have all made fun of her, telling little Pinduli that her wiggly stripes are ugly, her big ears are unattractive, and her fuzzy mane is not kept well. Pinduli wants nothing more than to just disappear, then no one will be able to hurt her feelings anymore. So she tries various ways to do just that. However, it is only when a

crazy mishap that she gets into triggers a strange chain of events that she finally seeks justice, and realizes that even though she's different, she's beautiful. Jannell Cannon has once again created an amazing children's book whose story and illustrations will stay with the reader, young or old, for years and years to come. Her illustrations are nothing short of brilliant, and the storyline is wonderful, especially for young readers, for it teaches the lesson that everyone is beautiful in their own way. This is a book that should be a part of everyone's home library. Don't miss it. Erika Sorocco
Book Review Columnist for The Community Bugle Newspaper

What a cute puppy! Just look at those soft brown eyes, that little tongue, its smile. How adorable! Let's get this book for our grand. What's that you say? A hyena! No way! No animal this cute could be a hyena! Why, those critters are known for scavaging and tearing chunks of meat from an animal. A hyena! Why, I declare, at least, let's look through the book. And another Janell Cannon illustrated children's book hits the bestseller list. Hyena or not, this is a cute puppy. But I mis-speak. From the back of the book I learn that there are four kinds of hyenas, which do resemble dogs but belong to their own Hyaenidae family. Our Pinduli belongs to the striped species which has the farthest habitat range and eats anything from bugs to fruit to small animals. All the facts about striped hyenas, as well as the other animals, can be found disguised in the story. Clever. The story of Pinduli takes her adrift from Mother. When the wild dogs laugh at her ears, she plip-plops them and finds her hearing diminished. The lion laughs at her bristly fur and shames her into the water to hide it. Then her weak stripes are made fun of. Finally, Pinduli rolls in dust, making her a ghastly white. When she begins her return trip home, she passes the water hole where the animals are gathered. They scream and run from "the ghost." Pinduli also runs. Once she realizes the mistaken identity, she assumes the character of the Great Spirit and demands each bad deed must be erased and the Great Spirit appeased. There is food aplenty for Pinduli and her mother from then on. The mother exclaims that Pinduli is not only beautiful but smart. As a children's librarian, I try not to emphasize the lessons of the stories but let children make their own conclusions which they do. Through experience, I have learned that this is a beautiful book for children. And there are no cute puppies in it!

I just read this book to my 3 year old son and he loves it. I don't think he can grasp the moral of the story yet, but he loves the story itself and the pictures. It is sweet, loving and responsible. I think it is because it teaches following through and taking responsibility. Each individual who has hurt Pinduli's feelings realized how he had done so, explained why he did such a thing, went back and confronted

the source of his irritation, who then went back and confronted the source of his irritation and it was brought back to the first individual, who owned up to his action and changed. All this was done in an amusing and loving way. Read it to your child because the book is much better than the convoluted way I tried to explain here.

This was such a great story. My daughter and I enjoyed it very much. The story also teaches kids that when someone is being mean it is usually because they are unhappy or someone is being mean to them as well. I love all of Janell Cannon's books and she is very lovely in person.

I had read *Stellaluna* to my second grade students for years. I passed the book on to my nephew and he loved it. Next I got him *Verdi* and he was enthralled. This is the third book by Janell Cannon and it is just as great as the others. I like how she takes an animal that is not as popular as a cute puppy or sweet fawn and makes it into a well loved character. Nice lessons about respecting others also.

I tried reading this to my three year old nephew, and it's maybe a bit too early for this particular book. He paid attention, at first, but about halfway through, his attention was totally gone. I feel this story probably could have cut down the word-per-page number and kept the feel of the story, but, just in general, this might end up being a book to save for for at least four year olds. *Pinduli* is a young hyena whom finds herself repeatedly ridiculed by her animal neighbors for her appearance. Stripey coat, big ears, and messy fur all garner criticism, so *Pinduli* tries to hide them all until she's not only a ghost of what she was, but appears to be an actual ghost. I don't quite like the message of all the animals making fun of *Pinduli* because other animals made fun of them. It takes the responsibility away from bullies by claiming they were also bullied. It's not the greatest message when you should be at a stage where kids are learning accountability. Great artwork, though, and the little snippets at the end for learning about the animals of Africa are a good addition. Really, if it was just a bit quicker, the story and artwork would have garnered five stars, but it just fell short.

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