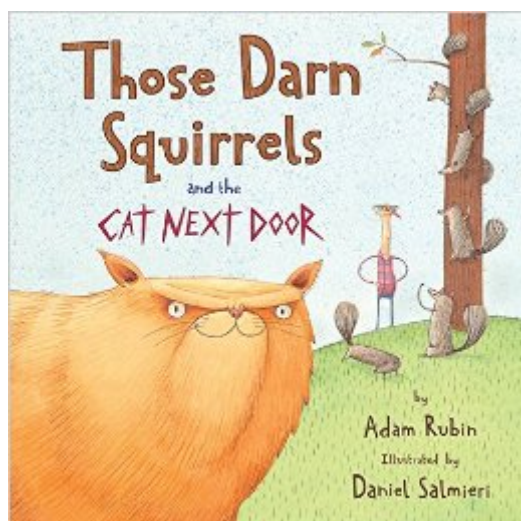


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# Those Darn Squirrels And The Cat Next Door



## Synopsis

All is calm in old man Fookwire's yard until new neighbors "Little Old Lady Hu and her cat, Muffins" move in next door. Muffins is one mean dude! He terrorizes the birds, interrupts Fookwire's painting, and ties the squirrels' tails together. Fookwire is upset, but not nearly as upset as the squirrels, who devise an ingenious plan to stop Muffins cold. The tongue-in-cheek text is perfectly complemented by the quirky, inventive illustrations.

## Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

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Shipping Weight: 6.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (479 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #35,640 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #119 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Birds #152 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mice, Hamsters, Guinea Pigs & Squirrels #209 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Cats

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

My 5-year-old daughter loves all that is good and pink and purple, but we do need some variety every now and then. This book is great fun! We totally relate to Old Man Fookwire's frustrations and laugh at the squirrels' crazy plans. (We're certain there are similar plans being drafted by those darn squirrels in our own backyard!) I would think all ages would enjoy this clever story.

Someone who knows the author once gave me the first book as a gift. Like all kids, my son picks the same 3 books ever single F'ing night and it makes me want to kill myself. Finally, I encouraged him (just to not have to read goodnight moon again) to give the book a try. I don't know if it's because I loved reading it out loud, or because he loves it, but between the illustrations and the cute/fun writing, this book has become the replacement for "Goodnight Moon", and I couldn't be happier. This book has that rare quality that lets the parent have a good time while reading a book to

their child. When we read this, I can do all the voices, and i get a few little adult-type jokes that my son doesn't get yet. All in all, five stars, reminds me of the kind of books we used to get when we were kids! BUY IT.

But for the disturbing nose of old man Fookwire this is an enjoyable book. However, we must deal with this distressing schnozola in no less than ten images throughout the book. It is very long, very red, and very pointy. Fookwire is a lonely and unhappy man whose only joy in life is the backyard birds. These he loves dearly, and he spends his time painting pictures of them. Otherwise, there's not much to endear him to anyone - he hates puppies, pie, and presumably many other things. But is it necessary to portray him with this most disgusting snout? Otherwise, the illustrations by Daniel Salmieri are absolutely delightful. The squirrels who disturb the peace and harmony of Fookwire's yard are a particular joy. Each one has an industrious and expressive face as it goes about plotting madcap raids on the old man's bird feeders. The birds too are a pleasure to behold. They come in all sizes, shapes, and colors. No wonder Fookwire never tires of painting them... The accompanying text is also memorable. For example, a description of the capabilities of squirrels: "Not many people know this, but squirrels are the cleverest of all woodland creatures. In fact, they're fuzzy little geniuses! They can make a house out of a tree, a bed out of a bunch of leaves, and a box kite out of twigs, dirt and squirrel spit". Is the box kite a bit over the top? Perhaps, but we also learn that "They are also excellent at math". Author Adam Rubin tells a funny tale of bad guys who are really good guys, forgiveness, resourcefulness, and happy endings all around. There's just one problem. The nose.

I just received my copy in the mail and I have already read it three times. It is definitely one of those books that is as entertaining for the adults as it is for the children. Take a close look at the illustrations, the attention to detail is amazing (for example, Old Man Fookwire, the loner protagonist, is reading what looks like "Catcher in the Rye" in the beginning.) Highly recommended for children of all ages, and all children at heart.

We have a birdfeeder in our back yard that squirrels feed out of. My daughter always yells at them. I'm not a grumpy old man but there is a definite parallel. Just like the grumpy old man, I try various ways to stop the squirrels without prevail. After reading the book my daughter and I shake our fists from the other side of the window and get a good laugh. I like books like this that we can relate to in our daily lives and it does in a fun way. I like the illustrations too, a bit cartoony and very stylish. I

think anyone with a birdfeeder probably could relate, and even without a birdfeeder, it's a fun book to read to kids.

I am a teacher and my kids loved this book. They laughed and they barely moved as I read the book to them. A must have.

This book is super cute and hilarious! My 3.5 year old son loves it! And it's perfect for his age because it's a little more in depth and wordy than the toddler books he was used to, but it's not too long either. There is a real story in this book, and by using humor, it easily keeps my son engaged in the story. The pictures are also cute and kinda funny so we like to analyze what the squirrels are doing in each picture. My son thinks its hysterical that the squirrels are doing the "walk like an Egyptian" dance at the party at the end of the book. We find something new and silly in the pictures every time we read it. This book also uses some great vocabulary and it has helped my son to learn some new words. Overall, we love this book and would definitely recommend it for any pre-school or elementary school aged child!

Cleverly written tale with a lovely moral twist. Very funny too! Not easy to find good children's literature these days, but this story is certainly worth a read to your kids.

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