

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!

By Mo Willems



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When a bus driver takes a break from his route, a very unlikely volunteer springs up to take his place-a pigeon! But you've never met one like this before. As he pleads, wheedles, and begs his way through the book, children will love being able to answer back and decide his fate.

In his hilarious picture book debut, popular cartoonist Mo Willems perfectly captures a preschooler's temper tantrum.

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Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! By Mo Willems Bibliography

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- Binding: Hardcover
- 40 pages

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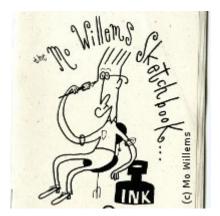
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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Exclusive: The Pigeon: A Life in Pictures (Click on images to enlarge)



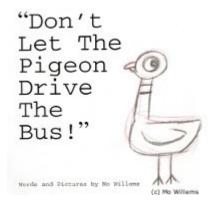
Back in 1993, I was cartooning for a 'zine. Due to a lack of other material, we decided to make the December issue a sketchbook with just my cartoons. I have been producing small cartoon and story sketchbooks for clients and pals every year since then.

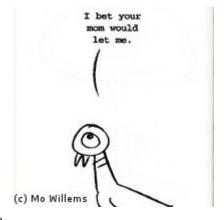




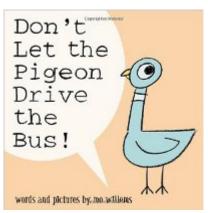
(c) Mo Willems

In 1998, my sketchbook featured a new character, the Pigeon. Born in the margins of a 1997 notebook filled with potential picture book ideas, he was complaining that his ideas were better than mine. To mollify him, I put him in that year's sketchbook.





The original sketchbook was much longer than the final published volume, but some of the lines were the same.



In late 1999, an agent essentially agreed with the Pigeon and rejected my picture book ideas. She suggested I revisit my sketchbook with an eye to turning it into a picture book. My wife was working that "unusual" was a good thing. at a school library at the time and had read the sketchbook to her kids, reworking and rewriting. The who had enjoyed it. So I suppose it Pigeon was now starting to look wasn't too crazy an idea. I started to revise the layout and work with color.

At the end of 2001, after several dozen rejections because the book was "unusual," an editor decided Plus, it made her laugh. I began more like his mature self.

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! was published in April 2003 and, to my surprise, proved to be popular quite quickly. Thankfully, that Pigeon doodle in the notebook back in 1997 was so insistent. He was right!

From School Library Journal

PreSchool-Grade 2-A brilliantly simple book that is absolutely true to life, as anyone who interacts with an obdurate three-year-old can attest. The bus driver has to leave for a while, and he makes one request of readers: "Don't let the pigeon drive the bus." It's the height of common sense, but the driver clearly knows this determined pigeon and readers do not-yet. "Hey, can I drive the bus?" asks the bird, at first all sweet reason, and then, having clearly been told no by readers, he begins his ever-escalating, increasingly silly bargaining. "I tell you what: I'll just steer," and "I never get to do anything," then "No fair! I bet your mom would let me." In a wonderfully expressive spread, the pigeon finally loses it, and, feathers flying and eyeballs popping, screams "LET ME DRIVE THE BUS!!!" in huge, scratchy, black-and-yellow capital letters. The driver returns, and the pigeon leaves in a funk-until he spies a huge tractor trailer, and dares to dream again. Like David Shannon's No, David (Scholastic, 1998), Pigeon is an unflinching and hilarious look at a child's potential for mischief. In a plain palette, with childishly elemental line drawings, Willems has captured the essence of unreasonableness in the very young. The genius of this book is that the very young will actually recognize themselves in it.

Dona Ratterree, New York City Public Schools Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From **Booklist**

PreS. In his winning debut, Willems finds the preschooler in a pigeon: a cajoling, tantrum-throwing, irresistible bird. "I've got to leave for a little while," says a uniformed bus driver as he strolls off the opening pages. "I thought he'd never leave," says the big-eyed pigeon as he marches onto the next spread and begins his campaign to drive the bus. His tactics, addressed to an unseen audience, are many: he reasons ("I tell you what: I'll just steer"); he whines ("I never get to do anything!"); he's creative ("Let's play 'Drive the Bus'! I'll go first"); he bargains ("C'mon! Just once around the block!"). Finally he erupts in a feather-flying tantrum, followed by a drooping sulk that ends only when a truck arrives, and new road fantasies begin. Librarians may struggle with the endpapers, which contain important story content, but the design is refreshingly minimal, focusing always on the pigeon; he's the only image on nearly every earth-toned spread. Willems is a professional animator, and each page has the feel of a perfectly frozen frame of cartoon footage--action, remarkable expression, and wild humor captured with just a few lines. Preschoolers will howl over the pigeon's dramatics, even as they recognize that he wheedles, blows up, and yearns to be powerful just like they do. Gillian Engberg

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Myrtle Brown:

The book Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable a lot more increase. Book can for being your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make studying a book Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! to get your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like start and read a reserve Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science guide or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this publication?

Lorraine Woodward:

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book especially book entitled Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a book then become one web form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get ahead of. The Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! giving you a different experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful info for your better life in this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Jamie Treat:

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