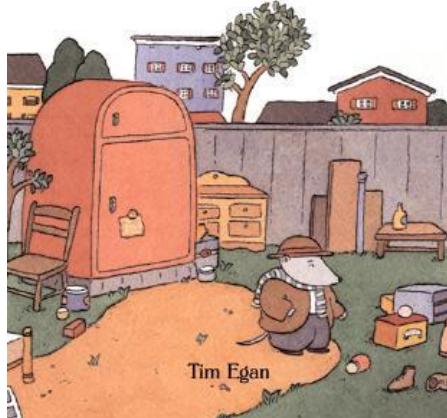


The
PINK
REFRIGERATOR



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Tim Egan

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“Try to do as little as possible.” This was Dodsworth’s motto. One morning, on his daily trip to the junkyard, he discovers a pink refrigerator.

There’s not much to say about a pink refrigerator, except this one had a note on it. The note said, “Paint pictures.” And so Dodsworth did.

The next day, a new note appeared on the pink refrigerator. And the day after that, and the day after that.

Dodsworth liked doing as little as possible. But the pink refrigerator had big plans for him . . .

The Pink Refrigerator Details

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From Reader Review The Pink Refrigerator for online ebook

Janina says

I enjoyed this story and the illustrations. It's about a character named Dodsworth.

He doesn't like to do much. He goes to the junkyard everyday to look for things and one day stumbles upon a pink refrigerator. A note on it says to draw more. Curious he opens it to find paint. everyday the note says something else and inside he finds something to try. but one day all the note says is explore more and finds nothing inside. mad he slams the door and the paper flies away. he is sad but he thinks about what the note says and keeps trying new things. This story can be used to inspire kids to try new things everyday just like Dodsworth.

Nancy says

"Dodsworth loved to do nothing. Now, this isn't to say that he never did anything, because he did. But his motto was basically "Try to do as little as possible." Now this mouse could be my doppleganger!

This was such a cute book, all about a lazy-ish little mouse who watched more television than he should. Until one day when he is inspired to try something new, like painting, and reading a book, and learning to play a musical instrument, and cooking, and gardening, and suddenly the world is a great big wonderful place full of curiosities!

Such a fun little book! And yes, it does make me want to go home and plant some new hydrangeas and fix up a veggie salad, and practice my ukulele and maybe read the 20 books piled up on my nightstand. And that's not to mention the new curtains I want to sew for the bedroom. Whew! Makes me tired all over again like I should just sit down and do as little as possible!

Smita says

Such a wonderful book with an uplifting lesson! Love this one!!

Kathryn says

A mysterious pink refrigerator comes with magical and sage advice for turning one fellow's easy, do-nothing life into one filled with interest and purpose. The story could have been far too didactic and even a little bit odd. But, I didn't think it was! I thought it was wonderful. Very inspiring and fun :-) The illustrations have a bit of an '80s feel to them that I really loved, too.

Lisa Vegan says

This quirky picture book reminded me just slightly (in a positive way) of one of my favorite books, *The Phantom Tollbooth*. It's a very unusual book too.

A man living a sedentary and hum drum life gets some inspiration from a pink refrigerator. I'd have enjoyed this as a child too, but this is one of those picture books that might be an appropriate gift for an adult about to begin a new endeavor. I think one reason I enjoyed it so much is that all the new activities the man engages in are ones I found appealing and also that I found the man likeable, even when he wasn't living as fully as would be ideal.

The illustrations fit the book very well so I enjoyed them, even though the style is such I might not have been a fan of them without the context of the story.

I enjoyed this enough that I will definitely seek out other books by this author-illustrator. In the inside back cover of this (2007) book, 4 of his other books are mentioned.

This might be a good book, along with Patricia Polacco's *Aunt Chip and the Great Triple Creek Dam Affair*, for kids who are too glued to their television (or video screen) sets.

Lisa says

I LOVED this book. This is a great, magical story with a great lesson. I am sadly bringing it back to the library today, but I'll definitely take it out again.

Camille Rickis says

The illustrations in this picture book are very retro looking, which fits because the time period is not modern, even though the book was written recently. The mouse continues to find wonderful things inside a magic pink refrigerator and uses them to improve himself rather than make money. This book shows how money is not equivalent to happiness, and that learning new things can be fun even if it is scary.

Manik Sukoco says

Tim Egan's *The Pink Refrigerator* is a profound statement wrapped in a quirky and kid-friendly picture book. I've read it three times already, and I'm not even close to being tired of it. Dodsworth the mouse is in a bit of a rut. Every morning he visits the junkyard, where he scrounges for items to sell in his thrift shop. He makes a living from his thrift shop, but it doesn't keep him very busy, and he spends most of his time sitting around watching TV.

One day Dodsworth notices an old pink refrigerator in the junkyard. The refrigerator has a note on it that says "Make pictures". Opening up the fridge, he finds "a beautiful assortment of paints and brushes and a little red sketchbook." Initially, he takes the items so that he can sell them, but something in the note compels him to try them out instead. Dodsworth paints his first picture. "It was of the ocean, and even though he'd never actually seen an ocean in real life, it turned out pretty good."

Visiting the junkyard over the next several days, Dodsworth finds each day a different note on the refrigerator and a different set of items inside. He learns that there are other interesting ways to spend time

besides watching television (like reading, cooking, gardening, etc.). By the end of the book, Dodsworth is a changed mouse, with a much broader perspective.

The message of The Pink Refrigerator is clear. Life is more interesting if you get out of your own rut and try new things. What saves the message from being heavy-handed is Dodsworth's demeanor, ranging from suspicious to enthusiastic to disappointed (when the refrigerator stops suggesting new projects). In the end, he slowly figures out the refrigerator's message for himself, and decides to take action on his own terms. The decision doesn't feel forced upon him, and won't feel forced upon the reader, either.

The illustrations are ink and watercolor, and feature many cozy background details to please the reader. I was a bit disturbed to see books on the ground at the junkyard, but I loved Dodsworth's cluttered, multi-room thrift shop and the portrayal of a junkyard as a place filled with treasure waiting to be found. I also liked the font, finding it easy to read, but just a little bit ornate. I thought that it matched the thrift shop atmosphere. The muted colors also seemed fitting for a book set in a thrift shop and a junkyard.

The Pink Refrigerator made me want to step outside of my own ruts, and try something new. I usually give away picture books to friends after I've reviewed them. But this one I can't bear to part with. It's a keeper. I think that the key for me, what makes me want to keep it, is Dodsworth's evolution from one who watches casually to one who marvels to one who takes action. And I like the illustrations, especially the pink refrigerator itself. Recommended for children and adults.

Dianna says

The pink refrigerator at the dump has mysterious messages and contains supplies to help Dodsworth break out of his uninteresting, do-nothing life. This was actually very imaginative and inspirational. My son and I both loved it and I highly recommend it!

Kelly says

Wow. Great book about a pink refrigerator in a junkyard that offers more than meets the eye, and stretches the imagination of one person named Dodsworth.

Marie says

I really love this book, but it is a picture book for adults more than for children. The idea of turning off the tv and doing other things may be directed toward children, but the concept of having settled into a boring life and needing magical intervention to return to the things that brought you joy is really an adult concept.

The gentle illustrations speak to the simple routine of the main character's life. This is not a "Eureka!" story, but more of a "hmmm..." story. Most adults should read it.

Irina Su says

Dodsworth lives a very plain and simple life. He runs a thrift store and his daily trip to the junkyard keeps his shelves at the thrift store stocked. One day, at the junkyard, he passes a refrigerator with a note that says

make pictures. When he opens the door of the refrigerator he finds a sketch book, paints, and paintbrushes. He decides to sell them at the thrift store. When a lady comes in to ask about the price of the sketchbook, he decides he wants to try to paint an ocean scene. It turns out very well. The next day the refrigerator note said "read more". When he opens the door he discovers many classics of literature. He decided not to sell them but to read them instead. Another day at the junkyard brings a note that says play music and again Dodsworth takes the advice of the refrigerator note and spends the day practicing the trumpet that was inside the magic refrigerator. Day after day, Dodsworth picks up new hobbies such as gardening and cooking. One day he receives a vague message from the refrigerator note that says "explore more". He doesn't know what to do with that advice, but later while watching a TV show he decides he is going to find the ocean.

Phyllis says

Dodsworth the mole discovers who he is, thanks to some notes on a pink refrigerator in a junkyard. Delightful!

Kate Buechler says

I read this because my coworker had enjoyed it and was pleasantly surprised to find it was about my friend Dodsworth.

Sq.Hill Library says

This touching and inspiring book is a wonderful story (for adults too!). Thrift-store-owner Dodsworth has a quiet, uneventful life until he finds a miraculous refrigerator in the junkyard; following the instructions it magically gives him, he discovers an amazing world beyond what he ever imagined. Dodsworth's story of ever-growing fascination is sweet, poignant, and inspirational; for any kid who's said they're bored or don't have anything to do, and for every adult who may have lost sight of their dreams. I can't recommend this book enough!

Good for children ages 3-8, and anyone who needs a boost!
