



# The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes

*Mark Pett , Gary Rubinstein*

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Beatrice Bottomwell has NEVER (not once!) made a mistake...

Meet Beatrice Bottomwell: a nine-year-old girl who has never (not once!) made a mistake. She never forgets her math homework, she never wears mismatched socks, and she ALWAYS wins the yearly talent show at school. In fact, Beatrice holds the record of perfection in her hometown, where she is known as The Girl Who Never Makes Mistakes. Life for Beatrice is sailing along pretty smoothly until she does the unthinkable she makes her first mistake. And in a very public way!

## The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes Details

Date : Published November 4th 2011 by Sourcebooks Jabberwocky (first published January 1st 2011)

ISBN : 9781402255441

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Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Psychology, Growth Mindset

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# From Reader Review The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes for online ebook

## Marissa Kendrix says

Summary: Unlike most kids her age, Beatrice woke up each morning and made her bed, matched her socks, fed her hamster, made perfect PB&J sandwiches for lunch, and already had the homework assignments completed. People around town didn't even know her real name, they just called her "the girl who never makes mistakes" because she never made mistakes...at least yet. During cooking class, Beatrice slipped while carrying eggs and almost made her first mistake, which put her on edge for the rest of the day. As the school talent show approached later that night she began to get nervous that she would make a mistake during her performance but proceeded on stage anyways. The music began and she tossed up her hamster, a saltshaker, and a water balloon. She realizes that pepper is falling from the shaker instead of salt...but it's already too late. All of a sudden the hamster sneezes while grabbing the water balloon causing it to spew water and pepper down all over her head. Beatrice begins to laugh and the crowd begins to laugh with her. The next day she wakes up mix matching her socks and putting PB&J on the outside of her sandwich. People no longer called her "the girl who never makes mistakes," just Beatrice.

Star Rating: 5 Stars!

Theme: Nobody is perfect, mistakes happen. Learn to laugh at your own mistakes.

Personal Response: I thought this was such a good book!!! It was simple and to the point including colorful, detailed illustrations that helped tell the story. I can relate to Beatrice in more ways than one. I would say that I tried to be a perfectionist as a child and feared making mistakes or messing up the most. Whether it was during my softball games or during school, I wanted to make a perfect play or make a 100 on a quiz. It wasn't until I got older that I realized that it was OK to make mistakes...mistakes don't define you, they help you learn and grow.

Recommendation: I would 100% recommend this book because it contains an important life lesson that all children should hear. This book does a great job creating a fun and silly story to show that making mistakes is OK. EVERYBODY makes mistakes at some point in their life. The book teaches readers to learn to laugh at their own mistakes because they aren't the end of the world.

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## Schizanthus says

This book is just what both young and practiced perfectionists need. As a recovering perfectionist I know the struggle Beatrice goes through in this book, making sure everything is done **just** right. As a perfectionist she fears making mistakes and in living her 'perfect' life, she misses out on fun activities like ice-skating with her friends.

When the inevitable happens and Beatrice **finally** makes a mistake she learns that maybe making mistakes isn't such a bad thing after all. After all, there's less stress and more fun to be had when you learn to let go and remember you're human like everyone else.

With a great message and engaging illustrations, I highly recommend this adorable picture book.

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### Heidi-Marie says

Looking for books to help my SD with her worries about making mistakes. This one was great. Not didactic. Cute illustrations. Humorous events. Made me smile. Perhaps the deeper meanings may have gone over my SD's head, but at least I can refer to the book once in a while and we can laugh at our mistakes.

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### Lisa Vegan says

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### Emily W says

I really liked this book . I enjoyed it so much because sometimes I feel pressure that everything that I do has to be perfect but this book showed me that even the most perfect people make mistakes big and small.

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### Virginia says

*The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes* is an interesting book that deals with the idea of perfectionism. Beatrice has never made a mistake in her life, and she is perfectly happy that way. Her younger brother, Carl, makes lots of mistakes, and *he* is perfectly happy *that* way. On the day of this story, Beatrice ALMOST makes a mistake when working on a team project, but she manages to "save" the situation through some agility and skill. This one brush with the idea of a mistake fills Beatrice with doubt and worry. As she prepares for her performance in the school talent show that evening, she is plagued with concern about what will happen-- will she make a mistake in her juggling act? The reader can see it coming-- as Beatrice nears the end of her act, a mistake she has made does cause her act to come to a crashing end. At first, she has no idea how to act, but then-- after looking at the situation, all she can do is laugh, and the audience laughs with her. From that time on, Beatrice is known as "Beatrice", and she makes mistakes like everyone else.

Because of my reading regarding mindsets and my long-time work with gifted/talented students-- many of whom deal with perfectionism--there were several things about this book that I found interesting. First off, I loved that the younger brother, Carl, is NOT perfect, and yet he is perfectly happy. I was also glad to see that, even though she *doesn't* make a mistake in the cooking project at school, just the THREAT of one terrifies Beatrice. This is often the case with very capable, bright children. Their fear of making a mistake can render them paralyzed so that they don't even attempt something. That Beatrice carries on and participates in the talent show even though she is afraid..., AND that the "worst" does happen, and she makes a huge mistake in her act..., AND that she finds out that things aren't so bad are all good things and an excellent lesson for perfectionists. I love that Beatrice can laugh at herself. There's also something to be said for the fact that finally people know Beatrice's name and call her by it.

This book takes a very complex problem and deals with it very simply. It would be nice if those with perfectionism could deal with it so handily and emerge from it so easily--and that is my strongest complaint with this book: it oversimplifies everything. Additionally, it makes the characters two-dimensional and not very believable. On the other hand, the book is intended for a young audience, and it may be a good way to make younger children aware that there really isn't such a thing as "perfect", and that mistakes don't mean the end of the world. For older students, I would focus on the other issues-- How can Beatrice and Carl be totally opposite and still be completely happy? Why is it significant that Beatrice doesn't worry about making mistakes until she almost makes one? What about the fact that the mistake Beatrice makes isn't in her juggling, but in grabbing the wrong materials for act? There are some good discussion points to use with a group of slightly older students, and I think they are what make this book a good read.

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### **Kara says**

A humorous, gentle reminder that it is OK to not be perfect, and one mistake is not the end of the world.

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### **Jenny says**

3.5 stars Although the pictures were not my favorite, I appreciated the message this book offered. Beatrice never makes mistakes. Never. In fact, people in town begin to refer to her as "the girl who never makes mistakes". And then one day, she does. Make a mistake, that is. And laughs about it and learns that we all make mistakes and that trying too hard to be perfect can make you scared to try new things. My 7 yo daughter and I read this together and it was great because she needed to hear this message.

I also plan to read this to my second graders in the future. A common refrain in my classroom is, "Everybody makes mistakes." "Mistakes are chances to learn." In fact, I often thank students when they make a common mistake because I can then use it as a chance to teach everyone to avoid that particular pitfall.

Reread 8/2018: This is perfect for talking about having a growth mindset with students.

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### **Medina Sabovic says**

This book is a children's genre. It is a picture book. In this book, there is a girl named Beatrice who never makes mistakes. She wakes up in the morning, puts on the same socks, makes her brother a perfect sandwich, and greets all her fans outside. The book goes on about how she never makes mistakes doing different activities. One incident occurred where she ALMOST made a mistake and dropped the eggs but she caught them. Later that night she was scared she would make a mistake at the talent show and everyone would laugh at her, and she did end up making a mistake but later she realized that it is okay to make mistakes. The purpose for this book to be in an elementary school classroom is to teach children a lesson that it is okay for someone to make mistakes. Some students think that have to be perfect, either be as a person or school work, and this book can help students realize that not everyone has to be perfect, you are your own

person. I chose to read this book because as a child I always thought I had to be perfect but that's not the case. Also I was drawn to the illustrations in the book.

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### **Reba Walton says**

Is it true? Can you go through life without making any mistakes? What happens when you do make a mistake? These are excellent questions to ask as you read this book. This is an excellent addition to my books to teach students about the growth mindset.

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### **Penny McGill says**

Grabbed this one for the title alone - perfect choice for this story and such massive text on the cover - and stayed because I loved Beatrice. She wears a green shirt and tidy overalls and tries so hard but when things get rough (there is a water balloon, a hamster and a pepper shaker involved) she hunkers down inside herself and let's her sense of humour take over. This could have been a trite little picture book that hits kids over the head with a message but it's subtle and beautiful and has one of the nicest hamster facial expressions I have ever seen.

Will it make kids stop sweating the small stuff? Maybe. It will be a fun story to read aloud and might become a family favourite. Even if you aren't talking about mistakes you will still find Beatrice and her family's home a welcome place to visit.

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### **Rachel Hatcher says**

Summary:

Beatrice was the girl who never made mistakes. However, she almost dropped eggs for cooking and then becomes nervous about the talent show. She gets up on stage and everything is going well until she realizes she brought her pepper shaker instead of her salt shaker and her pet sneezes. She makes a mistake but laughs, and then realizes that it's okay to make mistakes.

Evaluation:

I gave this book 4 out of 5 because the illustrations were great and I loved the story line and message of the story that it's okay to make a mistake.

Teaching Point:

I think this book would be great for teaching students it's okay to make mistakes. Everyone makes mistakes, and it's even better to laugh at our mistakes instead of getting upset about them.

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### **Sara says**

A book for all the people who are perfectionists. A bit overly didactic.

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## **Khumar Musayeva says**

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## **Allie says**

Beatrice has never made a mistake in her whole entire life. Every morning when she wakes up, she follows the exact same routine. She wake ups, puts on matching socks, makes the same peanut butter and jelly sandwich, and is always prepared for school. There's nothing out of the ordinary going on. In contrast, her young brother Carl is always making messes and he's perfectly happy living life the way that he does. Throughout the book, there are moments where you can tell that Beatrice battles with the pressures of being perfect and the anxiety that's occasionally looming over her. I think that those moments are powerful teachable moments we can pursue with our students.

I struggle with perfectionism and this book really resonated with me. I think it does a great job of relating to people who are afraid of making mistakes. I think it's extremely important to teach to our younger kids that making mistakes is a part of growing up. Without them, we wouldn't have as much to learn from. As a teacher, it's so hard for me to really get that point across when there are educational pressures such as standardized testing and school report cards that force this habit of perfectionism. That's why I believe that all educators should make a spirited effort in eradicating these beliefs.

In the future I'll definitely incorporate these into my SEL lessons. I also think that it fits perfectly into the growth mindset revolution! Some questions that could potentially go with this lesson could be:

**How does it feel to make a mistake? Is it different when we make mistakes in front of friends? Family? A group of strangers?**

**Why do you think Beatrice slept so soundly after the talent show?**

**Let's think about Beatrice and her brother Carl. What were their differences? What were their similarities? (Potential brainstorming about their character qualities)**

Here's a link to *Decades of Scientific Research that Started a Mindset Revolution*  
<https://www.mindsetworks.com/science/>

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