



Hug Me

Simona Ciraolo (Illustrations)

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Ever feel like you need a hug, a really big hug from someone? That's how Felipe the young cactus feels, but his family just isn't the touchy-feely kind. Cactuses can be quite prickly sometimes you know . . . and so can Felipe. But he'll be darned if this one pointy issue will hold him back, so one day Felipe sets off on his own to find a friend and just maybe, that long awaited hug.

In her debut picture book, Simona Ciraola creates an endearing tale of friendship, beautifully illustrated with buoyant wit and the perfect story to share.

Simona Ciraolo is a Sardinian born author and illustrator whose buoyantly witty and endearing tales recently won her the Sebastian Walker Award.

Ciraolo studied animation at the National Film School in Turin, Italy, before moving to the United Kingdom where she undertook an MA in children's book illustration at the Cambridge School of Art. She has also worked as a freelance 2D animator for children's TV shows and illustrated five picture books for an independent Italian publisher.

Hug Me Details

Date : Published September 16th 2014 by Flying Eye Books (first published September 9th 2014)

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Author : Simona Ciraolo (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Hug Me for online ebook

Susan says

What a gift Simona Ciralo had to be able to speak so profoundly of our life experience so simply and with so few words. The struggles we all feel at times - not fitting in with our family or peer groups and not getting our needs met from those around us. Then we find that exciting person that is SO NOT right for us. Which ends badly. And just when we give up and develop that prickly outer shell, we find that one person who is our missing half. Perhaps I am reading too much into this, but I like my assessment. Beautiful story, beautifully illustrated.

Kellie says

A cactus named Felipe who just wants a hug. How could I resist?

My says

Le petit cactus est tellement cute. J'veux me coller après moi aussi.

Emmy Groendyke says

Tiny adorable cactus? Tiny adorable cactus who just wants to hug? Super cute illustrations and a happy ending? What's not to love?! I could not get enough of this book! I wanted to give it a great big hug!

????? ?????? says

Quite adorable.

N. says

Adorable and sweet. The illustrations were the cutest!

It may be a little abrupt in its ending but I loved the sentiment behind it.

The outcasts stories are my catnip after all.

RH Walters says

A cactus can be more than emotionally available.

Garrett says

We all need more hugs. Even little cacti. Give your cacti hugs! But keep some bandages handy...

Vonia says

Uber cute. Lonely cactus. Family is very distant. Reaches out into the real world to find a friend. Unfortunately, finding loving individuals, even simply receiving hugs is easier said than done. He finally finds what he has sought in a rock, whom has a similar family situation. Kindred spirits, Hugs!

Ciraola is an animator, which shows in her adorable illustrations. It is her proficient rendering of these emotions, of course, that warm the readers' hearts, at whatever age.

Adults can learn a lot from this, including a few things on psychology, parenting, depression. How a little hug can really mean so much. Parents who are not prone to touching seldom realize the effect they have on their children, not only consciously, but also psychologically in ways neither is aware.

Claudia G-D says

Sweet little picture book with illustrations that add to the understanding of the story. The key message is that sometimes all we need is a hug from someone. PSHE links- friendships, teaching children to look out for someone who might need a friend or comfort, who can we go to when we need help/ comfort? EYFS/KS1.

Safa' Dalal says

"They didn't notice that all he wanted was a hug"

Amy says

Darling. Love the voice and the protagonist's name and the message, of course. My favorite page is when he's trying to enjoy his own company--playing sudoku & video games and eating Chinese take-out in his giant armchair, his bunny slippers on the floor.

Maggie says

A delightful little book. The drawings on the inside of both covers are adorably rough, but very important to the understanding of Felipe and his story with Camilla. The lessons to be learned here are often more subtle than I think a young child is going to understand without perhaps reading it several times. They'll get the bigger themes, but maybe not the lesser until later. Still, it's a wonderful and unique way to present important lessons.

The Styling Librarian says

Hug Me by Simona Ciraolo – Awww. Never expected to love a cactus so much. Sweet little cactus with all the adult cacti around her not wanting to have anything complicated nor are they good at displaying affection. Loved how this little cactus keeps trying to find someone to connect with and get a hug.... until she gives up. Simple and beautiful. Made me laugh when my son saw the cover and announced, “I don’t want to hug a cactus, are you kidding me?” but he ended up saying “Awww.” to the story as well.

Lesley says

Quite possibly the most adorable book on the face of the earth. May or may not have read it to my pet cactus.
