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# Hug Me



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 610 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Flying Eye Books (September 16, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1909263494

ISBN-13: 978-1909263499

Product Dimensions: 11.7 x 0.3 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 11 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 32 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #81,861 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in Books > Arts & Photography > Drawing > Pencil #1724 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor #2963 in Books > Children's Books > Humor

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

Best Children's Book of 2014, Brain Pickings "There is, of course, a deeper allegorical undertone to the tale, beyond the surface interpretation of celebrating one's inner softness in a culture that encourages a prickly exterior. A subtle undercurrent celebrates the spiritual homecoming of finding one's tribe, the expansive embrace found in a kinship of souls. The story is also a celebration of

free will, reminding us ever so gently that whatever our circumstances, we always have choices

• and that our inability to see this is perhaps our gravest self-imposed limitation."

Brain Pickings"Unlikely friends come together in • Hug Me,â • by the Italian author Simona Ciraolo. She uses whimsical, jagged colored-pencil drawings to portray Felipe, a young cactus who just wants someone to wrap his arms around.â •

New York Times• Thereâ™s a coy relationship between the text and artwork in Italian-born author/illustrator Ciraoloâ™s U.S. debut [â ] Ciraoloâ™s softly drawn cartoon cacti radiate charm.â •

Publishers Weekly"Ciraola tells her story with wry understatement, allowing her expressive illustrations to carry the narrative. â | Though Felipeâ™s not the first prickly childrenâ™s-book character ever to want a hug, he certainly is a charmer.â •

Kirkus Reviews"One of the things I like about this picture book&#151;aside from its adorableness!&#151;is that itâ™s honest. [â ] Hug Me is a book about being yourself, getting your needs met, and finding a kindred soul. All in a super cute package. Well done!"&#151;This Picture Book Life"Hug Me is a remarkable book that tells a complex tale in charming drawings and poetic prose. [â ] Itâ™s the story of the universal need for affection and friendship, even if we are somewhat prickly."&#151;Joy CorcoranYoung readers may identify with Felipeâ™s journey of finding friends in a challenging environment. His struggle is relatable and empathetic, and his delightfully illustrated character is welcoming and warm, despite his prickly exterior.&#151;Portland Book Review&#147;Simply written, the tale offers moments of comedic delight&#133; Ciraoloâ™s use of coloured pencils and felt tips gives a rawness to the artwork, making it all the more organic and delectable.â •

The Illustrated ForestBest Children's Book of 2014, Brain Pickings"There is, of course, a deeper allegorical undertone to the tale, beyond the surface interpretation of celebrating oneâ™s inner softness in a culture that encourages a prickly exterior. A subtle undercurrent celebrates the spiritual homecoming of finding oneâ™s tribe, the expansive embrace found in a kinship of souls. The story is also a celebration of free will, reminding us ever so gently that whatever our circumstances, we always have choices â • and that our inability to see this is perhaps our gravest self-imposed limitation." â •

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Such a sweet book! Bought for a baby shower gift, the baby's room is cactus themed so this was perfect. The pictures were adorable and the colors were very vibrant. Arrived on time and well packaged.

I found this book title on a list of "Uplifting Books". I sent a copy to each of my college age sons. They all loved it! it was an uplifting story for any age.

The illustrations are incredibly beautiful and the pages are thick and high quality but the story is a little simple and unfocused. I'm mostly giving it two stars because it looks used. The spine has some wear which, wouldn't be an issue if it were for my kids, but it's a gift for my niece and seems cheesy to give her a used book for her birthday.

Absolutely adorable little book with charming illustrations. It's amazing how the illustrator can

convey a complex range of emotions based on a few lines. I loved this book!

This book was very sweet. I thought the message was good for children and adults alike. The illustrations were engaging. I only gave it a four out of five stars because of the price (although it is a hardback book).

A simple book that makes it easy to teach higher reading skills. Great at teaching perspective/theme

Great condition! Thank you!

I love this book! so sweet!

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