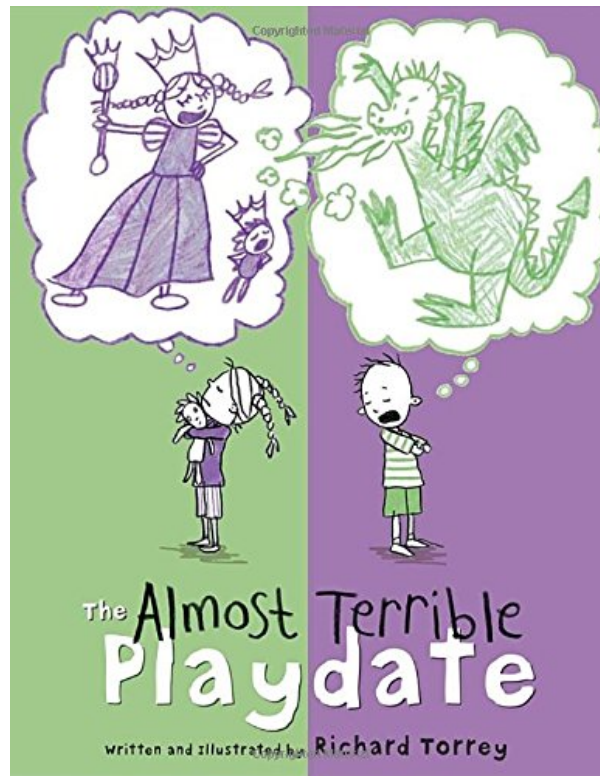
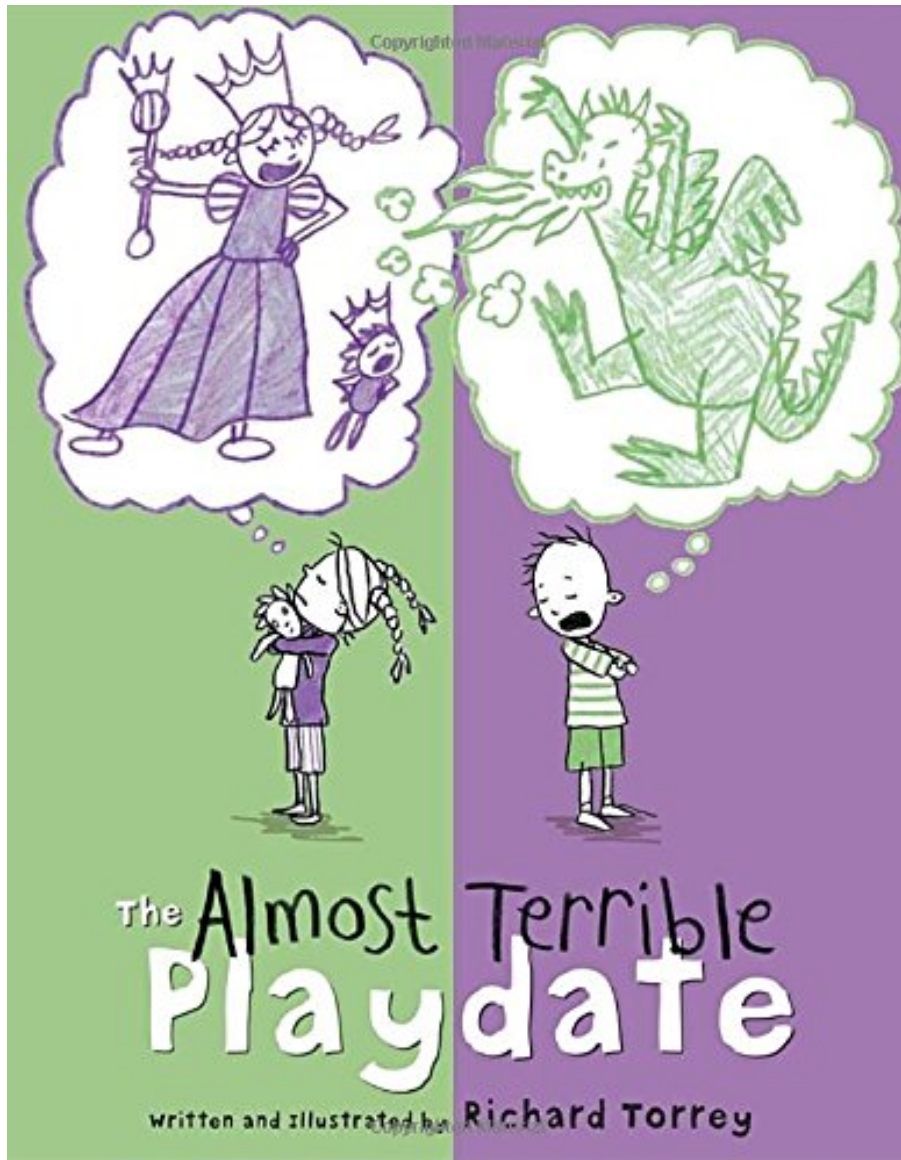


THE ALMOST TERRIBLE PLAYDATE BY RICHARD TORREY



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About the Author

RICHARD TORREY grew up in a family of boys—with two brothers, two half brothers, and two stepbrothers—where entire weekends could be occupied by a couple of cardboard boxes, a few crayons, and a lot of imagination. As a brother, and later as a father of two, he learned that compromise is a big part of successful play, as the two children in *The Almost Terrible Playdate* soon find out. He is the author-illustrator of three *Beans Baker* books in the *Step into Reading* line, in addition to numerous other books for children. He lives in Shoreham, New York.

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THE ALMOST TERRIBLE PLAYDATE BY RICHARD TORREY

PDF

“[A] delightful look at the importance of compromise among friends.” — Kirkus

Ideal for all families who have ever heard (or said!) the words “Why can’t you both JUST GET ALONG?!”, here is the story of two young children with VERY different ideas of what they want to play. What starts with an innocent question (“What do you want to play?”) soon veers hilariously toward chaos, as two children engage in the age-old struggle of princesses, ponies, and ballet vs. dinosaurs, dragons, and race cars. Which child will win? Or will both find a way to play nicely together?

In a humorous mock–epic battle staged with crayon illustrations of each child’s increasingly steadfast and elaborate ideas of what they want to play, Richard Torrey taps into the charged and volatile emotions of childhood, which every parent and child will recognize with a smile. It’s a lighthearted and funny way to reflect on the ideas of sharing, cooperation, patience, and generosity.

“A clever story of dueling imaginations.” — School Library Journal

“A playful and accessible introduction to cooperation.” — Booklist

“Friendship, it seems, like make-believe, takes an act of imagination.” — The New York Times

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Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Good lesson on the art of compromise

By Janet Hamilton

Summary: A boy and a girl ask each other, "What do you want to play?" Unfortunately, neither one has an answer the other one likes. The boy wants to a dinosaur or a dragon or a race car driver; the girl a magical wizard or a ballet instructor or queen of the universe. As each one makes a suggestion, the other one's imagined interpretation of the idea is shown in a crayon cartoon bubble, purple for the girl and green for the boy. Finally, unable to agree on anything, they go their separate ways. Each one starts creating with blocks, but is unable to keep from looking at what the other is doing. Finally, they break down and tell what they're making; this inspires them to make up a game that includes both creations, and by the end of the playdate, they're ready to play again another time. 40 pages; ages 3-7.

Pros: A good lesson on the art of compromise. Kids will enjoy the illustrations of what the two characters are thinking.

Cons: The ideas for games were a little gender stereotypical.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Cute story with imaginative children

By BrittyMama

This book, *oh so accurately* follows two young children as they try to figure out a way to compromise on what they want to play with. One wants to play princesses, wizards, ballerinas, and singers, and the other prefers dinosaurs, dragons, race cars, and wolves. At first, it seems like compromise is impossible but after a while the desire to imagine together trumps their stubborn streak.

The illustrations were drawn with colored pencils and crayons- with the bulk of the book represented with black and white drawings and purple and green "imagination bubbles". Both the text and illustrations had a perfectly child-like vibe to them that can only be pulled off successfully by a non-child who really knows what they are doing. A lesson on compromise, imagination, and playing nicely- this is a great book to add to any young child's collection.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Presley's Picks at GiltBuckram.com

By Gilt & Buckram

"Or what if I'm a giant fire-breathing dragon that you find in a cave and I scare you?"

What do you get when you have two children ready and willing to play, but they don't want to listen to each other? You get an almost terrible play date. This adorable book teaches children how to share ideas and learning to play together. The little girl in the book only wants to pretend play princesses, circuses, ballerinas, while the little boy only wants to pretend play racecars, dinosaurs, and fire-breathing dragons. The two constantly disagree without compromising, but their need to play together eventually trumps their need to be in charge.

Presley's thoughts: She loved the colors, the above quote is her favorite part of the story, and she thought the pictures were funny.

Happy Reading,

p

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