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Meet Wild Boars

Marsha D. Broadway

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Rosoff, Meg. *Meet Wild Boars*. Illustrated by Sophie Blackall. Henry Holt, 2005. ISBN 0805074880. 15.95. 40 pp.

Reviewer: Marsha D. Broadway

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Shortcomings

Genre: Humorous stories;

Subject: Wild boar--Juvenile fiction; Behavior--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Rosoff has created another horrid story with characters that overflow with boorish, anti-social behavior and gross habits. This time the audience isn't young adults (*How I Live Now*) but pre-school and primary school age children. Rosoff's boars are dirty, smelly, bad-tempered and rude. Horace will "be rude to your pets;" Morris will "stick his snout up your jumper;" Boris will "have a tantrum" and blame you. Doris is a glutton. Don't be fooled by a sweet baby boar: all boars are bad. The Anti-defamation League for Boars would have a field day.

The gross humor is banal and predictable--a catalog of "what not to do" in civil society. Rosoff attempts to provide the structure necessary in narrative for beginning readers. However, her penchant for non-conventional punctuation results in a 38-word sentence with only a period and multiple comma omissions from sentences with series and subordinate clauses. The formatting of the text on the pages helps to compensate for the missing punctuation. Artist Blackall employed gouache on watercolor paper for her illustrations and the good judgment to depict the boar Morris rubbing his snout on top of the jumper of a horrified young girl and not under it. For those libraries and families who are eager to encourage boorish behavior, purchase *Meet Wild Boars*. For those who would prefer engaging humor, *Knuffle Bunny* (2004) by Mo Willems and *Alice the Fairy* (2004) by David Shannon are better choices.