



2005

### He Came with the Couch

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Slonim, David. *He Came with the Couch*. Illustrated by David Slonim. Chronicle, 2005. ISBN 0811844307. \$15.95. 32 p.

Reviewer: Gillian Streeter

Reading Level: All

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Picture book; Humorous stories;

Subject: Friendship--Juvenile fiction; Sofas--Juvenile fiction; Furniture--Juvenile fiction; Book--Reviews;

Slonim's combination of whimsical oil illustrations and a short, playful story is irresistibly fun. A family buying a new couch from a rummage sale gets saddled with its "tenant"--a blue-skinned, yellow-nosed, purple-haired fellow referred to as "he." First they try to get rid of him, they try again, and finally they decide to get used to him. When the daughter in the family is in danger, they realize he might be good to have around after all.

This story is very short and the illustrations are vital to the story, making it suitable for adults to read with young children. The text is written from the straight-forward perspective of the family's daughter. Readers will laugh out loud when they compare her simple statement that her family "needed a new couch" with the illustrated fact of what happened to the old couch. The gently zany humor is appealing and the character that comes with the couch may remind the reader of a Muppet. A delight for readers of all ages.