Olivia and the Fairy Princesses by Ian Falconer

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Author: Falconer, Ian

Title: *Olivia and the Fairy Princesses*

Illustrator: Falconer, Ian

Year of Publication: 2012

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers

ISBN: 9781442450271

Number of pages: 40

Rating: Outstanding

Reading/Interest Level: Preschool; Primary

Keywords: Princess; Dress up; Individuality; Pigs

Review:

Olivia is having an identity crisis. She doesn’t know what she wants to be, although she knows that she doesn’t want to be a fairy princess just like everybody else. While all the other students dress up the same for Halloween and want the same part in the school dance recital, Olivia is not interested in fitting in. She’d prefer to stand out and wonders, “Why do they all want to be the same?” Olivia explores her options, from nursing to journalism, and finally lands on something much better than a fairy princess.

In the newest book in the Olivia series, this little pig is as charming and amusing as ever. Her displays of maturity and language beyond her years make the story equally entertaining for parents as it is for children. Throughout the book, you will cheer at Olivia’s courage to be different and her exasperation and confusion at the conformity around her. The ending is clever, fitting, and satisfying. The hardback has an attractive pink and turquoise color schemed cover, and the book’s illustrations are done in Falconer’s traditional charcoal—black and white with splashes of bright color. Olivia fans will certainly want to add this new delight to their collection.

Reviewer’s Name: Dana Staples

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