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Born Bad

Jaimee Pease

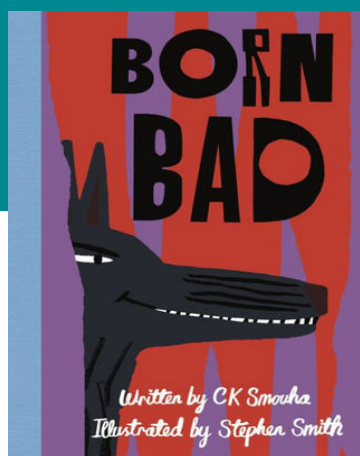
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Book Review

Born Bad

Born Bad is a playful story surrounding the struggles of identity. Wolf is unhappy in who he is supposed to be and wanders around the animal kingdom, hopeless that he will ever be able to change. Along his journey, he meets many animals, each with their own shortcomings. Only when he observes the self-confidence and mutual support of his new friends does Wolf find the courage to embrace who he wants to be. C.K. Smouha's simple phrases and diverse characters pair vividly with Stephen Smith's bold illustrations to offer a humorous spin on clichéd idioms.

The story uses bio-mimicry to approach dark themes of identity and self-worth in a less severe context. Being born "different" is a common misconception of identity among humans today, suggesting that identity is permanent and rooted in DNA. Allowing children to see differences occurring in the natural world in a way that is necessary allows for a more positive understanding of diversity. C.K. Smouha offers a perspective of hope, one that advocates for embracing differences. The story seems pertinent for readers struggling against the norms of society as much as for those who fit right in. Through the self-awareness and self-confidence shared among his friends, Wolf discovers that identity is flexible and evolving. Likewise, through support and acceptance, humans can look at their perceived shortcomings in ways that make them special and realize that identity lies in who they choose to be.

Author

C.K. Smouha

Illustrator

Stephen Smith

Reviewer

Jaimee Pease

Rating

Outstanding

Level

Primary

Pages

32

Year

2018

Publisher

Cicada Books Limited

ISBN

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