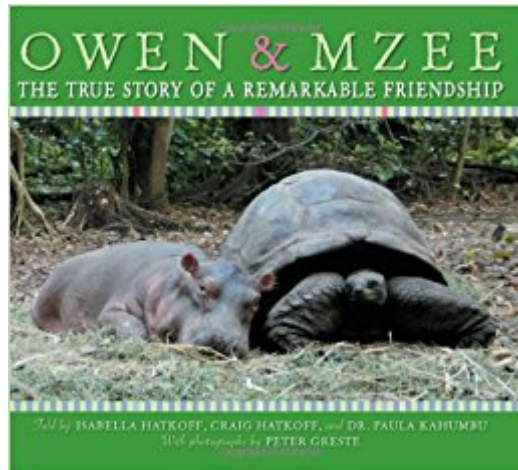




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Owen & Mzee: The True Story Of A Remarkable Friendship



Synopsis

The amazing true story of the orphaned baby hippo and 130-year-old giant turtle whose remarkable friendship touched millions around the world. The inspiring true story of two great friends, a baby hippo named Owen and a 130-yr-old giant tortoise named Mzee (Mm-ZAY). When Owen was stranded after the Dec 2004 tsunami, villagers in Kenya worked tirelessly to rescue him. Then, to everyone's amazement, the orphan hippo and the elderly tortoise adopted each other. Now they are inseparable, swimming, eating, and playing together. Adorable photos e-mailed from friend to friend quickly made them worldwide celebrities. Here is a joyous reminder that in times of trouble, friendship is stronger than the differences that too often pull us apart.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 920L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Press; First Edition edition (February 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0439851130

ISBN-13: 978-0439851138

ASIN: 0439829739

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 11 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 147 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #40,959 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > Mystery & Wonders](#) #37 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Reptiles & Amphibians](#) #71 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mammals](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 5 When the six-year-old contributor to this book saw the photograph documenting the extraordinary friendship between a baby hippo (Owen) and a 130-year-old giant tortoise (Mzee), she persuaded her father to help tell their story. Originally an e-book, the hardcover version begins with images of the duo, whetting readers' appetite and providing reassurance as the potentially disturbing plot unfolds. After a scene depicting a pod of hippos near the Sabuki River in Kenya, the text describes the 600-pound baby's displacement and separation from the group during

the 2004 tsunami. Children witness the challenging rescue and meet the knowledgeable staff at an animal sanctuary. From Owen's first approach for protection to Mzee's unexpected tolerance, the photographs, mostly by BBC photojournalist Greste, capture the pair eating, swimming, snuggling, and playing together. Their contentment and peace are palpable. Because it is sensitively structured, with careful choices about what is emphasized and illustrated, the situation does not overwhelm readers. The text and the back matter are brimming with information about the animals, their caregivers, and the locale. This touching story of the power of a surprising friendship to mitigate the experience of loss is full of heart and hope. A worthy complement is Ann Morris and Heidi Larson's glimpse at a human family's loss and recovery in *Tsunami: Helping Each Other* (Millbrook, 2005). Wendy Lukehart, Washington DC Public Library Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Gr. 1-3. Originally published as an e-book, this photo-essay was conceived when Craig Hatkoff and his seven-year-old daughter encountered a newspaper article about a baby hippo orphaned by the 2005 Indonesian tsunami. Parent, child, and a naturalist they consulted are credited as coauthors. The story has a simple, direct appeal: the hippo is dramatically rescued and brought to a Kenyan nature preserve, where it forms a surprising bond with a giant tortoise. Inspirational language about "the power of courage, love, and the preciousness of life" clutters the powerful facts, and not all of the photos are equally crisp and closely cued to the text. But children will nonetheless embrace the incident's compelling anthropomorphic elements, thoughtfully framed by the authors, and will exclaim over the images of the winsome baby and its grizzled surrogate parent. Adults hoping to share the story with young readers may find this preferable to Jeanette Winter's picture book inspired by the same event, *Mama* (2006), which more starkly emphasizes the trauma of the tsunami itself. Jennifer Mattson Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

This is not a new story, but worth buying for every child on your gift list who hasn't read it - from small children through "kids at heart." It's a true story, so comments on fiction vs. non-fiction could be considered. Also, that people from other countries care very much about their animals, just like we do. And, of course, this is such a clear and endearing story of the need for companionship, the reluctant tortoise learning to be a friend - discussion topics are so numerous, depending on the age of the child.

I always wanted this book. I had a hard time to choose either a red cover or green one. I finally

chose the green cover. It was wonderful. It was a sensational story as the whole world know this. The photos are excellent. What they can teach us is they need someone else to be with in order to live their life fully. The combination of the hippo baby and the old and wise tortoise are amazing. My heart is touched so deeply with love their share. I was also touched by how people tried to help them. Thank you very much for making this book to let the whole world to know the love and caring between the hippo baby and the 150 years old tortoise!

Owen and Mzee is a delightful story of unlikely friendship. It truly could be a guide to "How to be a good friend." Although the book may have young children as its focus group, it can be beneficial to adults as well---and perhaps more so!

Son loves it. He always reads this book when we go to the doctors, so I decided to get it for him for his birthday.

This is a remarkable story with great pictures!

beautiful story and pictures of a true situation. Hope Owen and Mzee have many happy years in each other's company. If animals can figure out how to live with each other and differences, why can't the human race do so?

This is the inspiring true story of a young hippo that is separated from his mother in the devastating 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia. He is rescued by villagers and transported to a wildlife sanctuary, but the shock of all he has been through has left him with little will to live. He is put in an area of the sanctuary occupied by Mzee, a 180 year-old tortoise. To the amazement of all, the tortoise helps the little hippo survive. Full-color photographs allow the reader to "see" every step of Owen and Mzee's journey. After reading the book, one asks the question, "If animals can practice tolerance and acceptance, why can't we?"

My daughter donated this book to her 5th grade class as a sweet story book to have on hand. There's a decent amount of reading a good pictures too but something that can be completed in one sitting.

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