



Arnie, the Doughnut (The Adventures of Arnie the Doughnut)

By Laurie Keller

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A deliciously imaginative story about friendship?from the author / illustrator of *The Scrambled States of America*.

Arnie was fascinated as he watched the customers stream into the bakery. One by one, doughnuts were chosen, placed in paper bags, and whisked away with their new owners. Some went by the dozen in giant boxes.

"Good-bye!" Arnie yelled to each doughnut. "Have a good trip!"

"This is so exciting!" Arnie beamed. "I wonder who will choose ME?"

At first glance, Arnie looks like an average doughnut?round, cakey, with a hole in the middle, iced and sprinkled. He was made by one of the best bakeries in town, and admittedly his sprinkles are candy-colored. Still, a doughnut is just a doughnut, right?

WRONG! Not if Arnie has anything to say about it. And, for a doughnut, he sure seems to have an awful lot to say. Can Arnie change the fate of all doughnuts?or at least have a hand in his own future? Well, you'll just have to read this funny story and find out for yourself. This title has Common Core connections

Arnie, the Doughnut is a 2004 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Laurie Keller, creator of the wonderful picture books *The Scrambled States of America* and *Open Wide: Tooth School Inside*, cooks up a rather silly story about a doughnut who narrowly escapes his doughnut fate. Arnie is proud to be chocolate-covered, with bright-colored candy sprinkles. His first day on the planet is a big one. He is 1) cut into a ring 2) deep-fried 3) cooled 4) iced 5) sprinkled and 6) named Arnie. What he doesn't realize is that step 7 is being eaten by a human. So, when a customer, Mr. Bing, starts to put him in his mouth, he screams, "What are you doing?" Arnie is further crushed when he calls the bakery to warn the others only to discover that all the other pastries are "aware of this arrangement." Unfortunately, this delightful plot twist is soured by the contrived ones that follow. Mr. Bing decides that in order to get his money's worth from Arnie he can pretend the doughnut is the dog he's always wanted--a doughnut-dog that will roll over, play fetch, etc.: "He went through a short phase of chewing on the furniture and barking at the mailman, but after a crash course in obedience school he graduated first in his class." However half-baked the story turns out to be, the funny asides and captions that Keller sprinkles throughout the book are often brilliant and the busy, crazy paintings are lots of fun, too. (Ages 4 to 8) --Karin Snelson

From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 3-Similar in style and format to Keller's *Open Wide* (Holt, 2000), this fun-filled adventure takes readers to a bakery. A chocolate-covered doughnut serves as guide, describing each of the steps involved in the creation of various confections. Poor Arnie, however, is clueless as to why people buy tasty treats, and when he is sold to Mr. Bing, he is shocked to discover his fate. Refusing to be eaten, he devises numerous reasons why he should remain whole and ways that he might benefit his new owner. The story becomes quite silly, as both characters think of ridiculous alternatives to the traditional role of a doughnut. Arnie suggests, "I could be your chauffeur," and Mr. Bing replies, "But you can't see over the steering wheel." Then Arnie volunteers to be a bodyguard, and Mr. Bing quips, "Who could you protect me from-a cookie?" In the end, the pastry is substituted for a pet and becomes a "doughnut-dog," doing tricks, attending obedience school, protecting Mr. Bing's abode, and becoming his best friend. Done in acrylic paints and collage, the cartoon artwork flows all over the pages, showing a multitude of details and amusingly bizarre drawings. Filled with offbeat humor, this fantasy spoof also highlights Arnie's optimistic, can-do personality. Kids will eat it up.

Rita Soltan, formerly at Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham, MI

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 2-4, younger for reading aloud. Keller's previous picture books have combined wild cartoon humor with a lesson. *The Scrambled States of America* (1999) introduced U.S. geography; *Open Wide* (2000) took a look at dental care. Her latest effort maintains the exuberant energy of the previous titles, but it dispenses with lessons in favor of a fantastical story about a doughnut that doesn't want to be eaten. Naive Arnie is delighted when Mr. Bing selects him from the tray at the Downtown Bakery ("Home of the Best Doughnuts A-Round"). But, when Mr. Bing tries to eat him, Arnie is shocked, indignant, and pleading. Soft-hearted Mr. Bing agrees to find a role for Arnie, other than breakfast. The solution? Arnie will become his pet--the world's first "doughnut-dog." The quirky friendship story is sweet, but unsubstantial; and new readers may find the text on the chaotic spreads difficult to follow. Keller's riotous collages, however, which are filled with gleeful puns, winning characters, and over-the-top silliness, are as manic and fun as a sugar high.

Gillian Engberg

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kenton Marshall:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book called *Arnie, the Doughnut (The Adventures of Arnie the Doughnut)*? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have some other opinion?

Ricky Dotson:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children until adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important for all of us. The book *Arnie, the Doughnut (The Adventures of Arnie the Doughnut)* ended up being making you to know about other knowledge and of course you can take more information. It is very advantages for you. The publication *Arnie, the Doughnut (The Adventures of Arnie the Doughnut)* is not only giving you more new information but also being your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship using the book *Arnie, the Doughnut (The Adventures of Arnie the Doughnut)*. You never sense lose out for everything if you read some books.

Elmo Bragg:

Exactly why? Because this *Arnie, the Doughnut (The Adventures of Arnie the Doughnut)* is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap it but latter it will distress you with the secret this inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such remarkable way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of gains than the other book have such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking method. So , still want to delay having that book? If I have been you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

Keith Robertson:

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