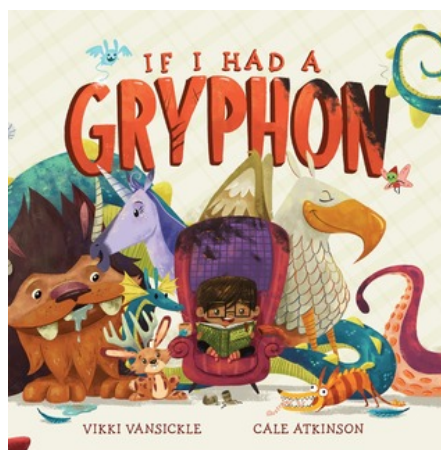




If I Had a Gryphon

Vikki VanSickle , Cale Atkinson (Illustrations)

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Sam just got a hamster for a pet. She's not really impressed. The hamster isn't very exciting--he mostly eats and sleeps and gets his shavings wet. BORING!

After reading a book about mythological creatures, Sam gets some ideas for more exciting pets. But she soon realizes that taking care of these magical beasts might not be as wonderful as she thought. Unicorns are shy, gryphons scare the dogs at the dog park and having a fire extinguisher handy at all times makes dragons seem like an awful lot of work.

Maybe the hamster really is the best pet for her. A nice, safe pet... right?

If I Had a Gryphon Details

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Author : Vikki VanSickle , Cale Atkinson (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review If I Had a Gryphon for online ebook

Wayne McCoy says

'If I Had a Gryphon' by Vikki VanSickle with illustrations by Cale Atkinson is a laugh out loud book of "what if" choices for pet owners.

When Sam gets a hamster for a pet, she is a bit underwhelmed. She imagines what owning grander (and imaginary) pets might look like and discovers that they would hold their own excitement. Perhaps a bit too much. She thinks about owning a dragon, a gryphon, a hippogriff, a kraken and many others. They all pose their own problems. Imagine what happens when a dragon sneezes? Or the fact that you need the proper gear to hang with your pet kraken.

The prose is in perfect lilting rhyme. I had to find someone to read it out loud to, and it was perfectly metered. And the illustrations are the best! I laughed out loud at the story and pics and I know younger readers will too. This will be on my gift list for friends and family with young readers.

I received a review copy of this ebook from Random House of Canada Limited, Tundra Books, and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for allowing me to review this hilarious ebook.

Jamie (Books and Ladders) says

Disclaimer: I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review

THIS WAS SO ADORABLE!!!! I loved the images and the story. I liked that this was about mythological creatures but also about the very real pets we get as well. I will have a full review plus an interview with Vikki VanSickle on Books Are My Fandom on October 24th!

Sam says

This might be my new favourite Vikki VanSickle book yet. I cried! I laughed! And it has a girl named Sam. :)

Ashley says

This book was incredible fun and super sweet. I love children's books that rhyme and its always a plus in my book if they have something to do with mythical creatures. Each page was filled with vivid color and amazing art, the way Vikki VanSickle mimicked actual brushstrokes in her artwork was just wonderful. With a little one's birthday coming up for good friend of mine I'll be sure to pick up a copy of this to add to their chills library.

Tiff at Mostly YA Lit says

Adorable. Sam is the new owner of a hamster, but finds that it's not quite as dazzling as the creatures in the mythological book she's reading. She imagines herself owning everything from a unicorn to a chimera, and in the process, realizes that taking care of those animals might be pretty difficult, too.

Full of charming and delicate verse, fantastical creatures (the phoenix is my favorite), and colourful illustrations that will appeal to both kids and parents. This book is perfect for your four-to-six year old who is interested in animals and loves the zoo. Entice them with the hippogriff, dazzle them with the (purple) unicorn...and then remind them that the pet you have at home is always best of all.

I could see If I Had A Gryphon read in classrooms and libraries, then used for language arts and English to develop imagination: imaginative play and art (create the costume of the mythical creature you wish to own; then walk, talk, dance like him/her), storytelling from child to adult, and much more. In short, this is a keeper for your home, classroom, or library.

I received a copy of this book from Penguin Random House Canada in exchange for an honest review (but, just to let you know, I have already purchased three copies for the children in my life! Enjoy!)

David says

If I Had a Gryphon is a fun little picture book about a girl who, at first, is uncharmed by her ordinary hamster and imagines how great it would be to have a mythic creature as a pet. While she goes through a wide assortment of cool beasts, she comes to a conclusion that may surprise you. It has some neat illustrations by Cale Atkinson, too.

I don't normally go around reading picture books--that's not really my style--but I work at a book store and, as I set this book up for a new promotion today, I thought, "Eh, why not?"

Emily says

So cute, loved the illustrations!

Rhianna says

This is such a delightful and fun book about having a "boring" pet but realizing the perils of having such critters. (However, I need a kirin, not your logic.)

Elizabeth says

This is such an adorable book and goes through so many mythological creatures! The illustrations are wonderful and the rhyming lines flow easily so it is a great read-a-loud book.

Whitney says

This charming, hilarious story (now in board book format) features a little girl who wants a pet that's slightly more exciting than her hamster. She imagines having a pet gryphon, unicorn, and manticore, as well as many other mythological creatures. In the end she decides that the care and maintenance of these pets would be a bit more than she can handle, and that her hamster is just fine.

The rhymes and plot of this kids' story are great, but it's the details in the illustrations that really make it funny. I loved the zany chupacabra, the gleeful expressions on the fairies' faces as they wreaked havoc, and the scared kelpies who wouldn't come out of the closet. These monsters are silly, not scary, and are sure to have both caregivers and children laughing!

Thank you to Penguin Random House and LibraryThing for the advanced copy of this board book!*

*This did not affect my review or rating.

Riane says

2nd and 3rd year lower elementary students thought this was a great read. They loved learning about all the different creatures and we were able to then look at other books on some of those creatures. I would read this again with another group.

Jocelin says

Love the illustrations and the story was really cute.

Morris says

This is a cute rhyming book featuring beautiful full-page illustrations and a diverse main character. It is guaranteed to keep kids engaged and even has a bonus of teaching them about mythological animals! There is quite a bit of imagination contained between the covers.

This unbiased review is based upon a copy won through the Goodreads First Reads program.

Patty says

Sam receives a hamster for a pet, yet she finds the hamster to be quite boring. She dreams of having mythological creatures as a pet instead but soon comes to realize the challenges and reality of having mythological creatures as pets. I absolutely loved this book! With engaging rhymes and stunning illustrations, If I Had a Gryphon was incredibly fun and cute to read

Danielle says

Really enjoyed this one.

It introduces mythological creatures while using lively rhyming text, like this bit about a unicorn: "We'd prance through fields of posies and nibble nectarines/I'd shine her horn with candy corn to get a starry sheen."

I mean, great stuff. Shout out to terrific illustrations too.
