



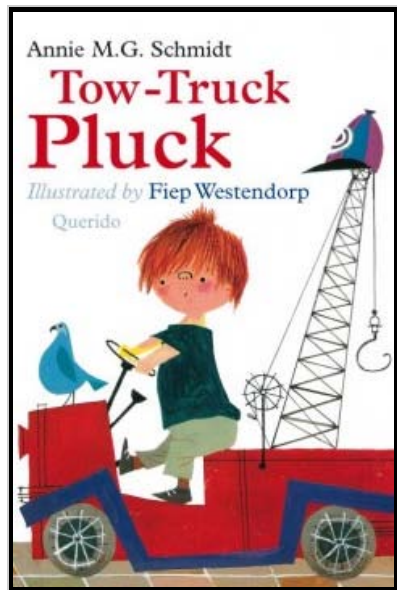
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Tow-Truck Pluck

by Annie M.G. Schmidt, David Colmer, Fiep Westendorp

Price: \$22.95 (Hardcover)

Published: January 10, 2017



Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: Pluck has a little red tow truck. He drives it all over town looking for a place to live. Then Dolly the pigeon tells him that the tower of the Pill Building is empty. In the Pill Building, Pluck meets Mr. Penn and Zaza the cockroach. Pluck makes lots more friends and solves all kinds of problems. But the biggest problem is Dove Grove. It used to be a garden with tall trees, but it has been neglected and gone wild. Grown-ups never go there, but the kids from the Pill Building love playing there. But now the Park Superintendent has decided to chop down the trees to make a paved square. Pluck and his friends try to save Dove Grove. But first he has to rescue Longmount from the canal.

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About The Author

Annie M.G. Schmidt, David Colmer, Fiep Westendorp

Annie M.G. Schmidt (1911-95) was regarded as the Queen of Dutch Children's Literature and her books have been an essential part of every Dutch childhood for the last fifty years. She trained as a librarian but burst onto the literary scene when the newspaper she was working for discovered her gift for...

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Release Info

List Price: \$22.95 (Hardcover)

Published: January 10, 2017

Publisher: Pushkin Children's Books

Pages: 200

ISBN 10: 178269112X

ISBN 13: 9781782691129

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What We Say

The Dutch writer Annie M.G. Schmidt had a long and illustrious career I've been mostly ignorant of till now. Her work is being translated into English with new fervor by David Colmer. While another recent title ("The Cat Who Came In Off The Roof") didn't win me over, the low-key charm of this story was a treat from start to finish. The droll illustrations of Schmidt's long-time collaborator Fiep Westendorp are a welcome and essential element in that charm. The story is dead simple: a little boy named Pluck has a red tow-truck and toodles about the city. He discovers an empty room at the top of an apartment building and moves in, making friends with most everyone from the store owners nearby to many of his

neighbors and above all the animals -- the cockroach he adopts as a pet, the pigeon named Dolly, the seagull named Carl and many many others. Pluck has mini-adventures in every chapter, from befriending the little girl whose mother insists she never ever go out and play because she might get dirty to rescuing a bird fated to be killed, stuffed and displayed in a bird museum. Each adventure leads casually to the next and the challenges facing Pluck become satisfyingly more complicated as the book goes on. More and more of his friends come back and help out in later tales and before you know it, Pluck is surrounded by a warm and supportive community. Disarming and sweet, the book also has a genuinely complex worldview, with a strong pro-environmental and anti-authoritarian attitude balanced rather surprisingly by a practical realization that we can't all goof off and play or who would put out fires or bake the bread people need? (Mind you, a little play is a good idea -- especially for adults.) Sly and smart and not so easy to pigeonhole. Now I want to read the stories of "Jip and Janneke!" -- Michael Giltz

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