



## Tommy Goes Trick-or-Treating

*Emlyn Chand, Noelle Giffin (Illustrator)*

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Tommy is a mischievous little woodpecker who loves to fly to the edge of the forest and watch the people in the nearby suburb. One evening, something strange and exciting happens—people emerge from their houses wearing costumes and carrying colorful buckets with smiling faces on them. What's even crazier is that they shout a special codeword while standing outside of each house, and are given delicious-looking candy.

Tommy simply must join in the fun. He and his friend, Michael the raccoon, fashion their own costumes and head off to join in the festivities. Thanks to Tommy's knock-knocking beak and Michael's quick paws, the duo is able to heist many a candy bar from the unsuspecting homeowners and children.

But are they missing out on the true spirit of Halloween?

There's only one way to find out: join Tommy and Michael in their trick-or-treating adventure, in this special holiday edition of the color-illustrated *Bird Brain Books* series for children 3-6 years old.

## **Tommy Goes Trick-or-Treating Details**

Date : Published September 30th 2012 by Evolved Publishing

ISBN :

Author : Emlyn Chand , Noelle Giffin (Illustrator)

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## **From Reader Review Tommy Goes Trick-or-Treating for online ebook**

### **Melissa Storm says**

The latest Bird Brain Book is coming out next week. This one's about Halloween and the importance of sharing/ playing nice/ not eating candy until you barf. I even have a brand-spanking new illustrator, and she is totally awesome!

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### **Leah says**

This book was very cute and has a good message for children. I really liked Tommy and Michael. And the pictures were sweet.

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### **C.p. Bialois says**

Tommy Goes Trick-or-Treating takes a pair of animal friends, Michael the raccoon and Tommy the woodpecker, as they want to partake in the Halloween festivities. In the process, they become greedy and take all of the candy they find. When they suffer a stomach ache from overindulgence, the pair realized their mistake and hurried to give the candy back.

I agree with other reviewers that these books should be mandatory reading in schools as they teach lessons important for society, but in a way that's gentle and not heavy handed.

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### **M.M. Hudson says**

Tommy Goes Trick-or-Treating by Emlyn Chand and pictures by Noelle Griffin, is a cute children's tale about about Tommy the woodpecker who likes to observe human behavior from his perch in a tree. Tommy observes on one special day the little humans are not looking like little humans at all because they are dressed up in costumes.

His curiosity begins to ensue just as he meets Michael the raccoon that explains the humans are trick-or-treating. This conversation soon sparks a humorous adventure where Tommy and Michael learn how to trick-or-treat. A twist along the way eventually finds the two gathering so much candy that stomachs and feelings alike turn flip flops. The story ends with a valuable lesson for children learning sharing and kindness.

This book is a short read and I highly recommend it to be in any child's library of books.

Disclaimer: I received this e-book free from the author in exchange for my honest opinion.

~Naila Moon

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### **Patricia Kemp Blackmon says**

Tommy the woodpecker could not understand why he was not able to peck a hole in a house. He had no problem with trees. When he finally gave up he noticed the boy and girl coming out of the house looked different today. Michael the raccoon raced up the tree to see what Tommy was looking at. Tommy asked why the boy and girl look different? Michael told him it was a special day called Halloween and the little people were going to go door to door and get candy from each house. This sounded like a wonderful idea. He loved candy. They finally came up with a plan and was able to get a large stash of candy. By snatch and grab. Which was not very nice! Do they need a codeword to get the candy?

Would they eat all that candy? What do you think will happen if they eat too much candy?  
Do you think they should give the candy back since they took it without asking?

This was a really cute Halloween story. A tale of a mischievous raccoon and woodpecker. In real life they both can be annoying a destructive but they are nice to look watch. The author picked the perfect critters for her characters Tommy and Michael. The illustrations created very cute characters in Tommy and Michael. Michael has sweet blue eyes, to bad he was such a little stinker.

I recommend this book.

#### Disclosure

I received a free digital copy of this book from Evolved Publishing for review. I was in no way compensated for this review. It is my own opinion.

If you found this review helpful vote yes or no here.

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### **Heather says**

This Bird Brain Book was adorable! The illustrations were done beautifully. The book started out with a woodpecker and a raccoon. While trying to figure out the correct way to score candy they realized the only way to do this successfully was by stealing. When they finished stealing from the adults they started stealing from the children. Boy did they pay the price. They ate way too much candy and started feeling sick. While sick, they understood that that they did the wrong thing. They learned that it was wrong to steal and scare and they didn't like the feeling of being this way so they went back to each house to share all of the candy that they stole. This book is a fun way of letting children understand about sharing and doing the right thing. I can't wait to read it to my nieces and nephews.

\*\*i received a digital copy of this book in exchange for an honest review\*\*

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### **Rebecca says**

This is the third book in the Bird Brain series by Emlyn and just like every other book there, it tells a story with an important lesson. This book is perfect for the age group of K-3rd grade, and just right for first timers who want to read on their own. The pace rolls smoothly along and the illustrations are colorful and spring off the page. I read this book with my 9 year old, and he loved it.

When Tommy discovers a group of children Trick or Treating he turns to his friend Michael, the curious and outgoing raccoon, to find out what the heck is going on. What ensues is a comical look at what happens when animals try to Trick or Treat with humans, and what happens when you get too greedy. Tommy and Michael both learn that you can get too much of a good thing and that sharing is a far better option.

My son learns best through seeing something in a concrete situation. It was fun to hear him guess on what would happen next and which animal would take the fall. He loved the vibrant illustrations and the Halloween scenery. (I am going to throw a special recommendation to parents with kids on the Autistic spectrum, like my son, he has trouble with empathy and it was great to see him make the connection in this book on how the kids might feel when being tricked by Tommy. It also helped him get the message of the whole Trick or Treating thing, which I know some of our spectrum kids have a hard time with)

All in all this book is perfect for the middle elementary grades, and showcases once again just how versatile Emlyn Chand is in her writing. Whether it's literary fiction, YA, or children's books, I have yet to find something by her I don't like.

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### **Amelia says**

I like the idea behind this series, as mentioned in the dedication, that children are interested in birds and maybe, just maybe, birds are interested in children too. Unfortunately, that's about the only thing I did like.

The story was too focused on getting morals across: You shouldn't eat too many sweets. You should share your sweets and not steal them from others. To me this contradicts the message in the dedication - I'd hoped the story would involve children and birds interacting, not a ten a penny lesson on not being greedy.

The formatting (Kobo) was poor and a nuisance to read. Some of the language used seemed quite advanced for young children but I doubt if older children would be interested in the story. I wasn't keen on the illustrations either, although I realise that is down to personal taste.

Worth a try as a freebie, though.

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### **Ikelia 'Bookoholic Anom' Francis says**

Such a cute story that has a lesson in it for everyone of any age.

Tommy (a woodpecker) likes to watch the humans in their everyday lives from up above. However, one day he realizes the human boys and girls are not acting as they normally would; the kids are dressed up and going

from door to door asking for candy. Michael (a raccoon), fills Tommy in on this very human tradition of Halloween. They both decide they want to join in on the festivity. During their adventurous, yet a bit of a mischievous night they learn a variable value lesson, it's better to share than to be selfish and greedy.

The illustrations in this book are so cute and go along with the story very well. It is a very easy story to read for all ages, and keeps your attention the entire time. Short yet sweet. It made me smile! You're never too old to learn a valuable life lesson.

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### **Jamie White says**

Emlyn Chand is back with another installment of her "Bird Brain Books". This children's series features feathered main characters who go on fun adventures and learn some lessons along the way. This time, Chand tackled one of the most anticipated holidays for children: Halloween.

Tommy the woodpecker and his friend Micheal, a raccoon, see all the children having fun and decide that they want to get in on the action as well. With Micheal's help, Tommy comes up with the perfect costume and they set out on a mission to collect as many treats as possible.

Unfortunately, they get a bit carried away and learn an important lesson that will surely stay with them in the future. This is the first bird brain book with a new illustrator and the pictures were adorable and very eye-catching. Overall, this is a can't-miss book for early readers.

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### **Alicia Marietta says**

I WAS PROVIDED WITH A FREE COPY OF THIS BOOK FROM THE AUTHOR FOR AN OPEN AND HONEST REVIEW ON MY BLOG. TO READ MORE VISIT  
[MARIETTAHOMESCHOOLINGZOO.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://MARIETTAHOMESCHOOLINGZOO.BLOGSPOT.COM)

Here we are with another great book from Emlyn Chand's Bird Brain series. As with all of Emlyn's books there is a lesson to be learned, and unfortunately for Tommy, he had to learn the hard way - with a MAJOR stomach ache!!

I realize we are in the dead of winter, and still have SEVERAL months before Halloween but it is one of Yang's favorite holidays. She loves to dress up and go house to house. In our community, Halloween is never on Halloween night and there is a window of an hour and a half to two hours. We live in a Tri-State and if we wanted we could end up going out 2-3 different times, if not more. I know several people that do this. Most flock to the "big" neighborhoods that are known for giving out LOTS of candy. We avoid those areas at all cost. We stick to smaller neighborhoods and only go out for about an hour. For one, Yang can't handle all of the commotion much less the houses that are going for gore and scaring the kids. We will walk right past those. Another reason is Yang does not need a ton of sugar. Not only the obvious that is it bad for you, but it makes her act CRAZY!! We have a 3 piece rule, twice a day - after lunch and dinner. This not only cuts down of the chances of her acting crazy, but it also prevents her from gorging herself. Too bad Michael and Tommy's Moms had not taught them to pace themselves!

Tommy is visiting the neighborhood when he sees the humans dressing funny. He is curious as to what they

are up to when he runs into his friend Michael, the raccoon. Michael & Tommy decide they want to dress up like the human so they can get candy as well. Michael is a robber with his black circles around his eyes and he does just that! Tommy knocks on the door and when the humans open, Michael jumps grabbing the bowl of candy before running off. Once they've stolen candy from every house on the block, greed has taken a hold of them and they scare the humans and grab their candy. Tommy and Micheal head back to their stash of candy & begin gorging themselves. It's not long before they are aweful sick. Will Tommy and Michael be able to change things before Halloween in completely ruined? Most importantly, have they learned their lesson?

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### **Ruth Hill says**

Nothing like a good detective story, and there are often books with a bit of mystery are not available for this age reader. Emlyn Chand does a great job of keeping the reader in suspense, and at the end, truth is paramount. Children will again learn incredible values, and they will find themselves wrapped up in the mystery. My daughter would have loved this book, and I wish I had found it when she was a little bit younger. The story is one that parents and children will definitely enjoy together.

I was sent a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review. I was not financially compensated, and all opinions are 100 percent mine.

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### **Phaedra Seabolt says**

Tommy the woodpecker lives to watch the humans. He watches a neighborhood every day from the comfort of a high branch in a birch tree. He loves to do this so much that he puts up with the taste of birch even though it isn't his favorite. While watching the neighborhood one day He sees the kids acting very strangely. They are all wearing costumes and shouting at the doors. His friend Michael the raccoon shows up and tells him about Halloween. The two of them decide they want to join in the fun as well. It takes them a few tries to figure out the rules (I.e. say "Trick or treat", wear a costume, and knock on the door) but eventually they get someone open a door only to be denied their hard earned candy. The only solution they have after playing by all the rules is to steal the candy. They steal all the candy and eat until they have belly aches. The problem is that b there's way too much candy leftover. The lessons they learn? They shouldn't steal. They should share. Halloween isn't for animals. Of course they also learned how to properly trick-or-treat. This would be a great story for early trick-or-treaters. The art is as always wonderful and the lessons are all of great value.

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### **Nai says**

We all know that I like reading kids books.

I don't have kids, I will never have kids, and yet - I'm in love with children's literature.

I believe there are three things that make a kids book with buying and reading - even if you're 32.

Contrary to popular belief, and my 5 star rating of most everything Emlyn Chand, one of those reasons is not to be the illustrious Chand.

1. The book must be entertaining to both the adults AND children who will read the book.
2. The book should teach, or at the very least inspire children on some level. Whether this is simply to inspire them to read more, live differently, or go off on their own adventure doesn't matter. The point is that it must inspire.
3. The characters should be be life-like, and re-ignite (or in the case of children keep ignited) the imagination. It should also make everyone no matter what age want to read more books.

***Why Tommy Goes Trick -Or-Treating deserves 5 stars, and Emlyn Chand should write school curriculum.***

Well for starters, there's not only a bird, but his raccoon friend. Cute furry animals who happen to make good Halloween costumes all on their own tend to make me want read all the kids books I can get my hands on. I've always been more of a mammal person than a bird person.

However, as a series, birds are pretty damned awesome, and I do really believe that the true-to-life feathery ones have their won personalities. As long as I don't have to read a kids book about and evil duck, chicken, or other water-fowl, I think I'll keep reading the Bird-brain books.

Cock-a-doodle AHHHHHH!

(photo taken from very far away. very, very far away.)

Tommy however, is most definitely NOT a chicken, and he does most assuredly learn a lesson. In fact, Tommy meets ALL those 3 requirements above. (Which are more like 4. Go back and read #3 now if you don't believe me.)

Tommy is a mischievous little woodpecker who loves to fly to the edge of the forest and watch the people in the nearby suburb. One evening, something strange and exciting happens—people emerge from their houses wearing costumes and carrying colorful buckets with smiling faces on them. What's even crazier is that they shout a special codeword while standing outside of each house, and are given delicious-looking candy. (From Goodreads )

Also,

Look at those faces, how can you NOT want to get to know these fantastical friends?

The good news is, not only is it worth 5 stars, it's also only one book in an entire series. There are also tons more goodies and fun things to do over on Emlyn Chand's website. In my review of either Honey the Hero, or Poppy the Proud, I secretly wished that there was an app developed for kids to go with these books.

I don't think I actually mentioned that in the review. You'll just have to go read them to find out :P . I'd like to publicly state now, that these books should be in every classroom from Kindergarten to grade 3. I'd also like to really see educational games/apps developed to go with the entire series. I had a dream once that I was a bird, and a hero...

Clearly after reading this review, the correct steps after this are as straight forward as a Star Trek plot-line.

Buy all the kindle editions (Which are, last time I checked, \$2.99.) Then, when you're done reading them as bedtime, or other-time stories, you should clearly go back to the website, and have fun with all the other articles that exist to accompany the bird-brain books. Then, consider buying them, in either kindle or paperback editions for friends, because they really are that great.

Emlyn Chand is an accomplished author and president of Novel Publicity. Not only are the bird-brain books worthy of your children, but they worthy of your time as well. They've helped me hone my own ideas for a children's book series. Though mine is much more furry, but just as lovable as birds are. It may or may not also have a sarcastic bent, and slightly black-humor to entrance the adult readers while being innocent enough to keep children's minds imaginative and eager to learn more. Even better - when your children grow older, there's a YA series Farsighted to keep their imaginations and consciousness alive and kicking.

From an early age, Emlyn Chand has counted books among her best friends. She loves to hear and tell stories and emerged from the womb with a fountain pen grasped firmly in her left hand (true story). Her affinity for the written word extends to absolutely every area of her life: she has published three novels and three children's books with plans for many more of each, leads a classics book group with almost five-hundred members, and, of course, runs the whole shebang at Novel Publicity.

The book that changed Emlyn's life is Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crocket Johnson. It opened her eyes to the world that could exist if only she was willing to create it—a lesson she has never forgotten. While she enjoys all types of novels, her greatest loves are literary fiction and YA. She's best known for her Farsighted series and is developing a slow but steady following for the Bird Brain Books. She's eager to see how her women's fiction novel, Torn Together, will be received by the reading masses. (<http://www.emlynchand.com>)

You can find Emlyn Chand on her website and Novel Publicity's (which yes, I've linked to them a lot, I know :P ). You can also follow her on Goodreads, find her on Amazon, facebook and twitter. You know you want to!

Stay tuned for a review up soon about Courtney's Christmas adventures. By soon, I really do mean tomorrow this time. I may even attempt live-blogging again. There's apt to be more discussion about the importance about animals in our lives, anthropomorphizing, and how to use this series in a educational way. I know I haven't given it enough time in this post, but trust me - you'll get your fill tomorrow.

Related articles

How about going trick-or-treating with a woodpecker and a raccoon? My latest kids' book releases today! ([emlynchand.com](http://www.emlynchand.com))

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### M. Sembera says

It was a cute story with a nice moral at the end. Best part was my daughter(7) liked it!

