



Echidnas Can't Cuddle

Nieta Manser

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Erick is a sad little echidna who longs for a cuddle. But his spikes make it impossible. When he runs off into the Australian bush he comes across some unexpected dangers and soon learns that his prickly exterior can come in very handy. A spiky but warm tale in rhyme.

Echidnas Can't Cuddle Details

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Author : Nieta Manser

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From Reader Review Echidnas Can't Cuddle for online ebook

Margaret says

Very good illustration and heart-warming story.

Educateempower says

But with my spikes, I can't even hug my very own mother.

Poor Eric.

He is covered in spikes and they are getting in the way of his need to cuddle. All he wants to do is cuddle someone and feel the joy of a warm embrace but all the other bush animals are too frightened of his spikes.

Penny the platypus cries, koalas are cuddly up high in the tree and rosellas with all their feathers can put their wings around each other at any time. Poor little Eric.

Upset with his situation, Eric runs away and then runs even faster when a snake tries to bite him, bees try to sting him and an eagle tries to snatch him.

Luckily he has spikes – those spikes that he hates and wishes he never had – to save him.

Eric learns to love his spikes and comes to realise that even if he can't give a hug to someone he loves, he can give them a kiss.

Eric the echidna is quite the loveable character in this rhyming picture book. He displays many characteristics that children will relate to – jealousy, fear, independence, lack of self esteem, love for others and love for himself. Echidnas can't cuddle is a great story to use to talk about self acceptance and learning to love the different things about each person.

Lauren Merrick's images have been created through collage and print and are wonderful to look at, talk about and wonder how they were created to give the feeling of texture and life.

Echidnas can't cuddle was shortlisted for the 2017 Environment awards because of the way it raises awareness about these spiky creatures, its habitat and the other animals that live around it.

<http://www.eacl.org.au/2017-shortlist...>

So what else can you do with this book? Check out my blog!

Amanda - Mrs B's Book Reviews says

*<https://mrsbbookreviews.wordpress.com>

Author Nieta Manser, in partnership with illustrator Lauren Merrick, bring children aged 3 to 6 years old a charming picture book titled, *Echidnas Can't Cuddle*. In this engaging tale, children are provided with an opportunity to learn another side to the spiky echidna, as Erik the echidna shows us the sensitive side to this bush creature.

Echidnas Can't Cuddle is the story of little Erik the echidna. Erik is a sad echidna, with quite the dilemma. His spikes seem to get in the way whenever he wants to cuddle his family and friends. He just doesn't know what to do with all his spikes! When the frustration of his quills gets the better of him, Erik heads out into the darkness of the bush alone, where he believes he will be better off. However, a big snake, a horde of bush bees and a mighty eagle all try to hurt Erik, with no success. It comes as quite the surprise to this gentle soul! Finally Erik realises that his spikes are important to his life and safety. His spikes offer the perfect protection from danger and make him super special. Erik seals his new found discovery and return home with a kiss for his family and friends, which he learns is just as special as a cuddle!

I have a lot of respect for children's picture books that showcase the natural beauty of our country's unique flora and fauna. Not only are these kind of books a feast for the eyes, they also offer an accessible way in which to educate children about the importance of protecting Australia's wildlife. *Echidnas Can't Cuddle* works as a text to extend our knowledge and understanding of one of our most treasured bush creatures, the echidna.

Told in catchy rhyming verse, *Echidnas Can't Cuddle* has a gentle beat, perfect for bedtime story time read aloud opportunities. The style of storytelling author Nieta Manser adopts with her emphasis on rhyme, means this book will be music to the ears of those who read this delightful book.

Whilst *Echidnas Can't Cuddle* provides the reader with a great environmental lesson on some of Australia's most beloved animals, this book also manages to combine some important life lessons, relevant to children. These include messages on self confidence, self acceptance, growth, jealousy, difference, fear, friendship and love. It is a book I am certain will offer plenty to discuss with young children. *Echidnas Can't Cuddle* allows young readers to feel a connection to their experiences and those offered by the book.

The illustrations that accompany the text in *Echidnas Can't Cuddle* are captivating. I found myself in awe of the texture and layers used by illustrator Lauren Merrick. The techniques used by Merrick to bring Australia's landscape, the setting of the novel and the characteristics of the animals featured in this book is quite magnificent. I particularly took a fondness to the beautiful print style features of the stunning plant life contained in the pages of this book.

Both my children (aged 5 and 7) and I just loved *Echidnas Can't Cuddle*. I know we were all intrigued as to how poor Erik the echidna could work out a way to receive the cuddles and love he craves. The journey to get there, through the quintessential Australian bush setting, was a wonder for all of us, as I am certain it will be with any audience. I am sure once school resumes back again next year I will be sharing this one with my kindergarten students. *Echidnas Can't Cuddle* is a wonderful tribute to Australian.

*I wish to thank the publisher, Little Steps Publishing, for providing me with a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

