

Here's what has been said about *Rip Squeak® and His Friends*

From Gallery Directors:

"The first time I saw Leonard's art, I could feel the connection— the lineage that stretched back to such diverse influences as Tenniel and N.C. Wyeth. Leonard's work is, from first glance, timeless. The Rip Squeak stories remind me of what I find missing in so many of today's children's books. . . The heart, the soul, the emotion of the characters in the Rip Squeak stories— conveyed both in Susan's writing and Leonard's art— are deeply felt. We know Rip and his friends like we know our own children."

Lois Sarkisian
Every Picture Tells a Story. . .
Los Angeles, California

"Leonard Filgate speaks in the human language. His illustrations transcend culture, age group and gender. The joyfulness of the story and the characters represent unconditional love and allow us to feel we have regained our lost innocence, something we all need more of in our lives."

Sandy Phillips Dobronte
Phillips Gallery of Fine Art
Carmel-by-the-Sea, California

"There's nothing like it! People fall in love with Rip Squeak. They like to feel good and this artwork makes them smile with joy. They instantly relate to the paintings."

Jeff Kamka
Galleria di Sorrento, Caesar's Forum Shops
Las Vegas, Nevada

"We invite kids into the gallery, from schools and shelters, and read Rip Squeak and His Friends to them. They love it! And teachers are always impressed. Pirate Tales and More is a tribute to art teachers with the inclusion of the preliminary sketches and sharing the development of paintings."

Tom Head
Abreu Gallery
Sacramento, California

"There is a freshness to Leonard Filgate's work that tweaks the imagination in everyone, from the very young to the old. I have been in the publishing world for many years, know the medium pretty well, and believe Rip Squeak is unusually enchanting! The sensitivity of the characters brings out the child-likeness in all of us. And Susan's phraseology is wonderful--'soon they were moving at the speed of kitten'--we have all seen that and she makes us want to know more about that experience. Rip Squeak's bravery reminds us that you have to take the first step, no matter what your size."

Dorothy Brunton
The Mole Hole
Solvang, California

"Rip Squeak is everybody's favorite here. It is absolutely delightful and people are begging for more images. I have had a huge success with it, collectors return and bring their friends with them."

Beth Love
Oounkshaw Gallery
Young Harris, Georgia

"Our clients love Rip Squeak. We have never had such an immediate response from our collectors. We can't keep the art on the wall!"

Thad Markham
Artifacts Gallery
Cambria, California

From the Media

“Have you ever wondered what happens when you leave the house? Have you ever wondered what the animals are doing while you’re away? This beautifully illustrated book dares to imagine just that. It tells the story of one house whose owners have gone away on vacation and left the cat and some mice and one garden frog alone. Does it sound like a dangerous mixture? Well, what happens next is a series of lively adventures that are driven by fun and imagination. It reminds us that a lot of things can go on while us humans are away. The story itself is wonderful, but the pictures really bring it to life. They are exquisitely crafted and make the reader feel as if you can actually reach out and touch the characters. Leonard Filgate is obviously exceptionally talented and should be commended for the work displayed here. This book really should be a must have for any collection.”

The CLCD Company, LLC

www.childrenslit.com

March 2002

“*Rip Squeak and His Friends* is an artfully illustrated story intended for children and destined for the child in all of us. Its pictures, more beautiful than we might imagine, were not designed to illustrate the story. They are, instead, the fine art images that inspired the story.”

Lisa Crawford Watson

Special to the **Monterey Herald**

Monterey, California

December 2001

“Imagine a near-perfect world where cats and mice get along...well, maybe it only happens in books such as “*Rip Squeak and His Friends*.” Illustrator Leonard Filgate captures the innocence of-and brings humanlike qualities to all the characters in his colorful and detailed artwork. The characters' acceptance of each others' differences allows them to interact without prejudice and sets the mood for this gentle tale.”

Los Angeles Daily News

Los Angeles, California

November 2001

“One book worth reading... Sometimes, best friend turn out to be those you’d least expect. Author Susan Yost-Filgate teaches kids understanding in her new book, *Rip Squeak and His Friends*. The story for 3 to 8 year olds is sweetly told, but the beauty of the book is in the acrylic paintings by Leonard Filgate. The colorful paintings of the two mice, cat and a frog are done in exquisite detail and are so lovely they’re displayed in art galleries across the country.”

Ft. Worth Star-Telegram

Ft. Worth, Texas

October 2001

“*Rip Squeak* is a wonderful, young mouse whose adventures begin with his sister Jesse and an abandoned cat named Abbey who they’ve befriended. Along the way a brilliant and unique frog, Euripides, joins the fun. This odd grouping of friends manages to get along quite well, despite their obvious differences, and promotes a message of ‘harmony, understanding, tolerance and warmth without violence’ - qualities often elusive in today’s world.”

Elizabethtown Chronicle

Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

October 2001

The Treasure

“*Rip Squeak* is a handsome young mouse who lives with several buddies in a vacation cottage. Euripides, a frog and an actor, arrives in tricorne and brass buttons to read everyone some pirate stories...and soon all head off on a whiskers-and-warts search for what’s at the spot marked X. Here’s the one you read to your youngest and let them study Leonard Filgate’s loving illustrations.”

CNN.com

December 2006

From Fans (a small selection):

“This book is outstanding on every level! A lovely story, rich with detail and characters children will fall in LOVE with. And the illustrations--if you like Graeme Base, or any of the other masters of children's illustration today, and you haven't seen the work of Leonard Filgate, you're missing out big time. Get this book! It continues to delight and charm and entertain, read after read after read. I predict this book will become a classic, and readers will see a lot more of this talented husband and wife team.”

--An Amazon Customer Review

“What We Thought: The warm and lovely paintings in the book make Rip and his friends nearly walk off the page. Big-eared and bright-eyed, the little mouse brother and sister are perfect surrogate selves for small children who like to be adventurous, but still want to stay safe, and surrounded by friends and family. Parents will have a great opportunity to create real and funny characters as they enact the hammy frog Euripides, the cautious kitty Abby, ebullient little Rip and sentimental Jesse, along with their new friends.

Why They'll Want It: Kids will probably wish that Rip Squeak were real, so they could cuddle up with him in bed as Mom and Dad read about his adventures. The paintings are fully of lovely details to keep kids engaged and bring them into Rip's make-believe world. Children will appreciate how well the friends get along, and that the treasure they find is something that can send the gang onto new adventures. They'll especially appreciate the moral of the story, which is that the best treasure of all is wonderful friends.”

--Alison Marek, Toy Directory Monthly

“My son, who is 8, was inspired by “Rip Squeak and His Friends” and is now working on his own book! My five year old daughter has requested the book as her bed time story for two weeks straight. Unlike some books for children, my wife and I never tire of reading it to them.”

Thomas Clifford
American Literature Teacher
Carmel, California

“I am the executive director of a Child Abuse Center in Morristown, NJ and your artwork captivated my attention. The images were so wonderfully whimsical and innocent and I was flooded with tears and smiles after viewing each one. They are such a stark contrast to my work and I wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for creating such fantasy. I will share your brochure with the children to show them what I mean by repainting their worlds. Thank you again.”

Karen Carbonello, Executive Director
Deirdre O'Brien Child Advocacy Center
Morristown, New Jersey

“Thank you so much for the two books you donated to our budding author and illustrator here at Orca. As a teacher who works with struggling students I am always looking for ways to motivate them to persist through the difficulties. Seldom do they get such a wonderful reward for their efforts. I know that both boys will always remember this experience and treasure their book always. Thank you for sharing with us all.”

Orca at Columbia
Seattle Public Schools
Seattle, Washington

“I can't tell you how gleeful this book has made me! I am a 43 year old musician and have had a very tough two years. My soul feels spent but this wonderful book awakened something in me. It is pure magic and my spirit swells again with a happiness I can't explain!”

Jeanne Wooster-Atkinson
Monterey, California