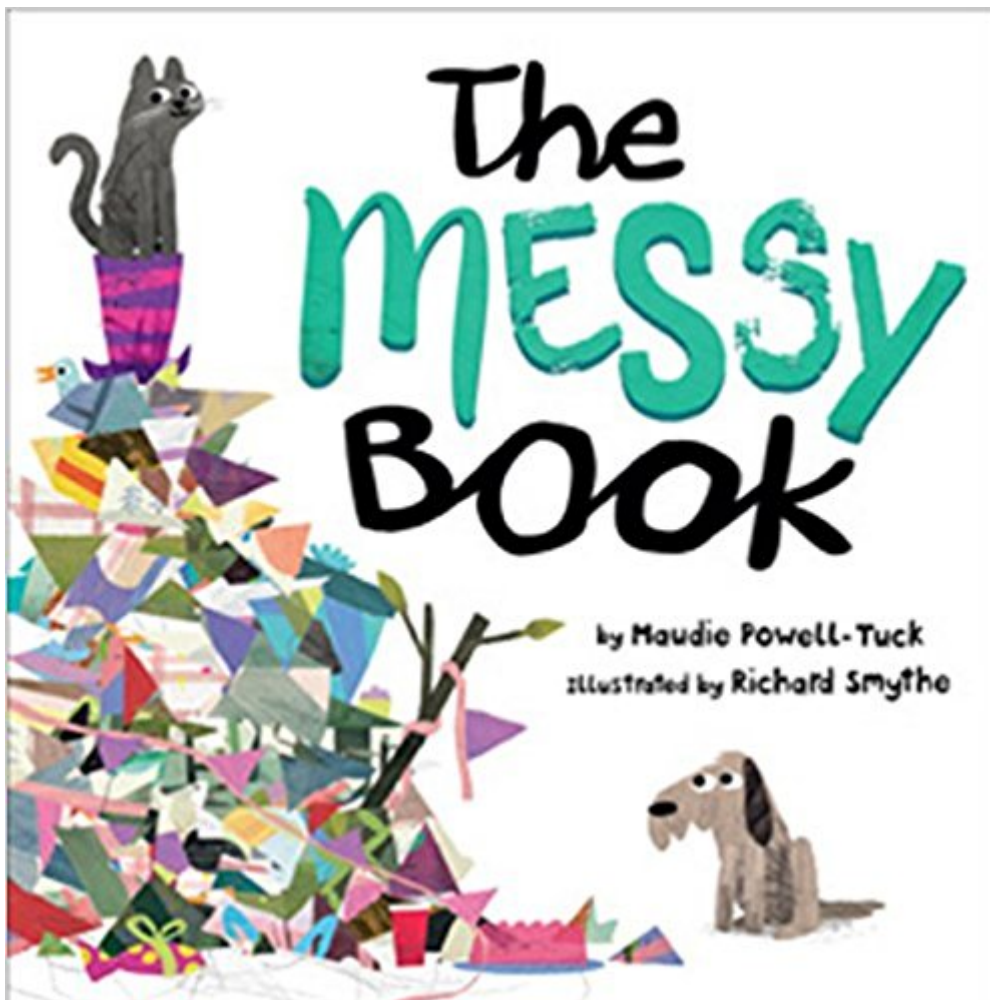


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# The Messy Book



## Synopsis

Cat has made a BIG mess! "Maybe you should clean it up," says Dog. "Cleaning is boring," Cat replies. She would rather move the mess, or jump on it, or hide it under the bed. Will Dog ever be able to convince her to clean it up?

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Tiger Tales (September 1, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1680100378

ISBN-13: 978-1680100372

Product Dimensions: 10.4 x 0.5 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,560,060 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #112 in [Books > Children's](#)

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[Children's Books > Animals > Cats](#) #5127 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 1 **–** Cat has made a mess. When Dog suggests cleaning it up, Cat has other ideas. Cat proceeds to shove the mess aside, clearing the space it occupied. A page turn reveals the mess pervading a jungle scene, and an irate elephant pushes it back. Cat's next attempt to "clean up" lands the mess in the ocean, and the marine animals return a soggy mess. Every time Cat tries to take a shortcut to cleaning, he ends up with an even bigger mess. Finally, all the animals work together to put everything back in place. Once everything is in order, readers see that the animals have cause for celebration. The book ends after the party with another mess to clean. The digital illustrations start with a white background and a huge pile of multicolored bits. The simple text appears in speech bubbles, adding to the comic feel. Cat and Dog will be recognizable to any child and parent who have disagreed about the need to clean a room. "Please, please, PLEASE can we clean it up?/But cleaning is boring. We could hide the mess under my bed **–** or blow it up **–** or eat it." While the book allows readers the opportunity to talk about why cleaning is important, and could even be generalized to environmental issues, it is not heavy-handed.

VERDICT This title can be successfully read as a silly storytime selection and is a good choice for most collections. — Laura Stanfield, Campbell County Public Library, Fort Thomas, KY

Some books are just like out of a parent's life! "The messy book" by Maudie Powell-Tuck, published by Tiger Tales, is one of these. It is just like the title promises! The jacketed hardcover book draws interest from the first page on: A painting cat, a cartoon dog full of expression and a big mess. There probably is not one toddler in the world who wouldn't love this! Turning the first pages it soon becomes clear that "The messy book" is an unusual book: Speech bubbles and the expressive illustrations by Richard Smythe make it into a comic for kids. There is something to discover on any page and kids will love to observe how the mess takes its course. The story: Cat made a mess and is oblivious to dog's attempts to clean up. She rather shoves the mountain of scraps into one corner of the room, hides it under the bed, bounces on it. She even tries to push everything into the jungle and the ocean. Even the vacuum can't hold the extent of cat's mess. When cat is finally convinced that cleanup is the only way, her animal friends help and soon discover that the paper scraps are colorful pieces of a party scene. Unfortunately, the soon to begin party leaves another mess to clean up. I should be honest: Reading comic-style books out loud felt weird to me at first. But it's a fun way to read, especially when you are willing to use different voices! The simple texts make books like "The messy book" easier to read for beginning readers, too! Maudie Powell-Tuck found an unusual way to address a topic from every kid's life: You have to clean up for mess again and again. "The messy book" is a fun book that every parent can relate to and that children will love. Cat's tries to get rid of her garbage in the ocean and the jungle may be tries to sensibilize children for environmental topics. Our four-year old was more confused and, after the second time reading the book, amused though.

Funny little book. The pictures are delightful. Very basic and simple text.

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