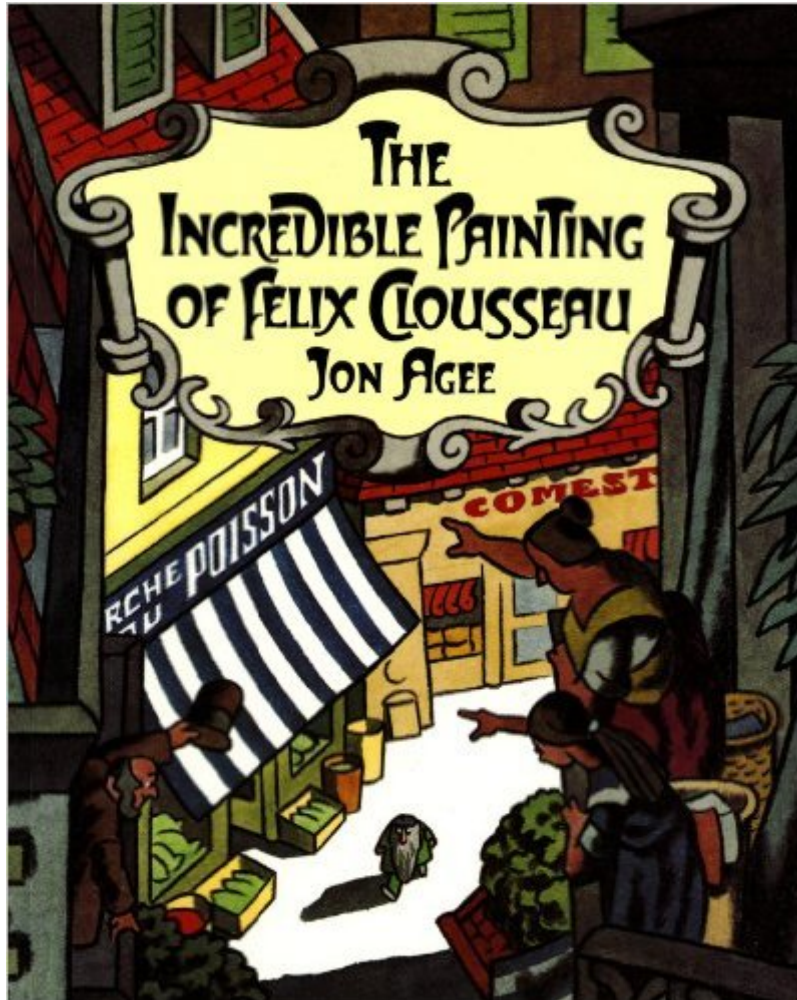


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The Incredible Painting Of Felix Clousseau



Synopsis

An unknown painter becomes an overnight sensation when his paintings imitate life too well by quacking, crawling, and erupting all over Paris. The Incredible Painting of Felix Clousseau is a 1988 New York Times Book Review Notable Children's Book of the Year.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (19 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

When the Royal Palace hosts an art contest, all the great artists come out to submit their paintings, like Gaston du Stroganoff with his painting, "The King on his Throne". However, an unknown artist named Felix Closseau also enters the contest. Except where everyone else's paintings are huge and feature the king, Felix's painting is small, and is of a duck. Considering how seriously the French take their art, you can imagine the uproar at this ridiculous painting. That is, until the duck QUACKS. Then, the duck merrily waddles OUT of the picture itself, and off on it's way. Felix wins first prize. At first, everyone wants to own a Closseau, until disaster strikes wherever his works are hung. A painting called "The Sleeping Python" is held in high regard, until the Python wakes up one night!! Volcanoes fill rooms with smoke, waterfalls gush gallons onto the floor, Closseau himself is put into jail! That is, until one night when a thief breaks into the royal palace to steal the crown...Jon Agee has written or illustrated over a dozen books, including books playing with language-books of oxymorons and palindromes, most noticeably. However, "The Incredible Painting..." ranks as one of

my personal favorites because of its original story and fun ending. Its story is fun, quick moving and easy to read (though beginning readers may have difficulty decoding some of the French-ish names). Closseau himself is quite a character, too: a short stooped man with beret and enormous graybeard that successfully hides his face (and most of the rest of him!). Very young children will love the fun absurdity of things coming out of the pictures, while older children will appreciate the havoc that a living painting can wreck! Fun and highly recommended!

Talk of life-like paintings! Felix Clousseau's actually comes to life! The unknown painter submits a painting in the Royal Palace Grand Contest of Art, in Paris. Competing with celebrated artists such as Gaston du Stroganoff, Felicien Caffay Ollay, and Alphonse LeCamembair, Clousseau's rendition of a duck causes some serious outrage amongst the judges, until the impossible happens and the painting goes QUACK! At once, the extraordinary Clousseau is hailed a genius and wins the Grand Prize. He is the toast of the town. But the good luck is quickly followed by chaos. All over Paris his paintings come to life. The Sleeping Boa Constrictor, owned by a baroness, awakes. Scenes of waterfalls flood homes and paintings of volcanoes erupt. All over Paris, the public is furious and Clousseau is sent to prison!..... Meanwhile, a notorious thief is on the loose. He's in the King's Palace to steal the crown - the crown, sitting just below a very special painting. A painting that - oui! - will save the day! Clousseau is made a hero! He's released from prison! And awarded the Medal of Honor! His reaction? Absolutely priceless! A sophisticated theme (life imitates art and the fickleness of public opinion), but it's an easy read and a really good story.

My daughter and I checked this book out years ago when she was in grade school and we both loved it. Years pass and we both all but forgot about it. Her younger brother and I found it at the library and rediscovered it all over again. It has become a bedtime favorite. The story is interesting with lots of misadventure leading up to an ending that surprises and delights. Highly recommended!!

An excellent story for artists of all ages. It is short and simple, with a wonderful twist at the end. I have presented this book as a gift to more than one artist friend, and the reaction has always been positive. A truly "cool" book.

My kids loved it; highly recommended! It's so nice to find an intelligent children's book that amuses adults.

Jon Agee tells a wonderful tale of art for art's sake, and the power of art- with his usual wry twists. The art work is some of his best, and the inside jokes for grown ups made me smile. This is one of my top 5 go to books when gifting to young reader's libraries.

This is a book for all ages. The tremendous illustrations tell the simple story of Felix Clousseau. Too simple for high-falutin' French tastes, Clousseau causes an uproar by winning the Grand Contest of Art. As his paintings cause a greater and greater stir, he is jailed as a public nuisance. Finally set free by happy circumstance, he returns to the painting he loves. Are we all living in one of Clousseau's paintings? It's the age-old question.

My grandchild LOVED the book and wanted to read it again the very next night. Her father is an artist, so it had special interest to her, I think. I suggested to her parents to take out some of their many art books to let my grandchild look at famous paintings and see what might have happened if they were painted by Felix Clousseau!

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