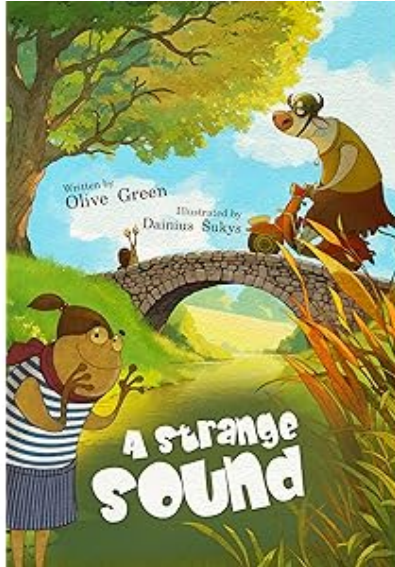




Readers' Favorite® Book Reviews and Award Contest

Book Review Mini-Critique



Below you will find ratings (scale of 1-5) with general descriptions for the major parts of your book followed by your Readers' Favorite review. Although this is just a Mini-Critique, we hope it will give you an insight into how readers may view the different components of your book.

These are the opinions of your reviewer, and although they are not a literary professional, they are an avid reader of books just like yours.

Title: A Strange Sound
Subtitle: Friendly's Universe
Author: Olive Green, Dainius Šukys
Genre: Children - Picture Book



Appearance: The appearance of a book can make a significant impact on the experience of a reader, whose enjoyment is often enhanced by an enticing cover, an intriguing table of contents, interesting chapter headings, and when possible, eye-catching illustrations.

5

Plot: The characters of a book should be well defined with strengths and flaws, and while they do not have to be likable, the reader does have to be able to form a connection with them. The tone should be consistent, the theme should be clear, and the plot should be original or told from a unique perspective. For informative books -- those without plot and characters--this rating refers primarily to your concept and how well you presented it.

5

Development:	Development refers to how effectively you told your story or discussed your topic. The dialogue should be realistic, the descriptions should be vivid, and the material should be concise and coherent. Organization is also a key factor, especially for informative books -- those without plot and characters. The order in which you tell your story or explain your topic and how smoothly it flows can have a huge impact on the reader's understanding and enjoyment of the material.
5	
Formatting:	Formatting is the single most overlooked area by authors. The way in which you describe scenes, display dialogue, and shift point of view can make or break your story. In addition, excessive grammatical errors and typos can give your book an amateurish feel and even put off readers completely.
5	
Marketability:	Marketability refers to how effectively you wrote your book for your target audience. Authors may include content that is above or below the understanding of their target reader, or include concepts, opinions or language that can accidentally confuse or alienate some readers. Although by its nature this rating is very subjective, a very low rating here and poor reviews may indicate an issue with your book in this area.
5	
Overall Opinion:	The overall starred rating takes into account all these elements and describes the overall reading experience of your reviewer. This is the official Readers' Favorite review rating for your book.
5	

Review:

Reviewed by Demetria Head for Readers' Favorite

A Strange Sound: Friendly's Universe by Olive Green is a children's story about a toad named Terry who is driving a truck full of berries. She is singing aloud in her truck when she hears a series of strange sounds along the way: whistles, squeals, howls, bells, and snores. Curiosity makes her stop several times. But she begins to think, "Must be the wind." Her search continues while driving through fields and along roadsides. Eventually, Terry discovers something hiding in the cargo, underneath the blueberries. Could this be the source of all those sounds, and will this discovery change the course of her journey? Young readers are invited to see what happens next.

This is a delightful story, with playful rhymes. It is upbeat and lively, which is perfect for young readers. I loved how Olive Green created a repetitive structure to grab and keep youngsters' attention. Terry would hear a sound, stop to investigate, then continue with her delivery. Terry's character was easy to love. She is caring, gentle, curious, and compassionate. Dainius Šukys' illustrations added life to the storyline. The expressive and colorful art just captured my attention. Some scenes made me laugh out loud, like when the bees charged the bear, making it drop a bucket of honey. Young readers will enjoy the visual clues. Readers who have enjoyed other animal-centered stories like *The Bear and the Piano* by David Litchfield will find *A Strange Sound* equally engaging. It is heartfelt, engaging, and definitely memorable.