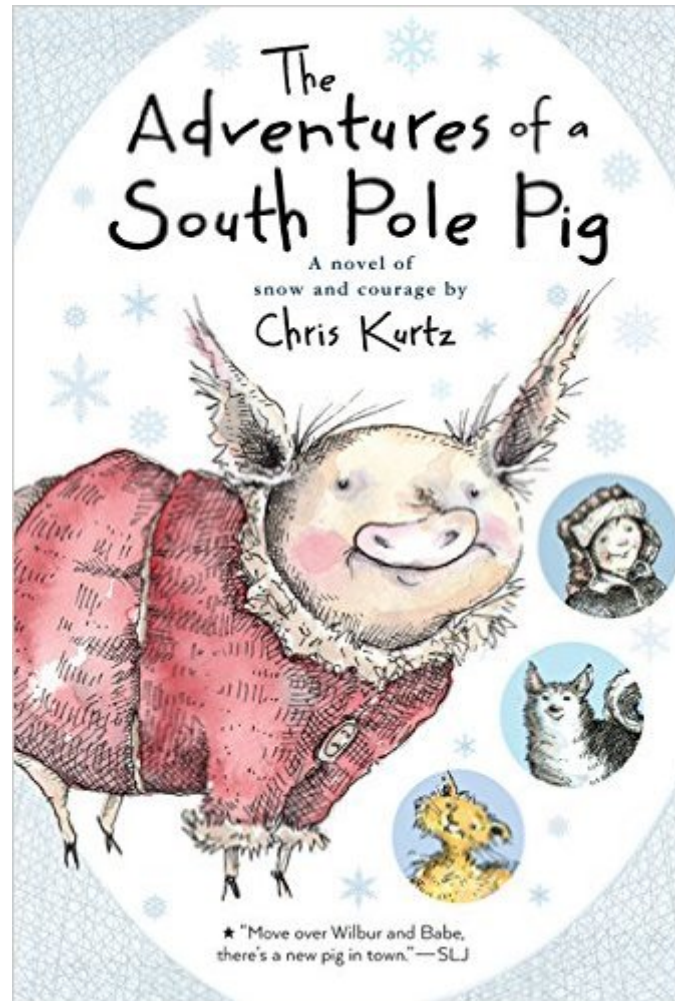


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The Adventures Of A South Pole Pig: A Novel Of Snow And Courage



Synopsis

Flora the pig was born for adventure: "I want to explore the world and needs to get dug up, call me. I'm your pig," she says. The day Flora spots a team of sled dogs is the day she sets her heart on becoming a sled pig. Before she knows it, she's on board a ship to Antarctica for the most exhilarating and dangerous adventure of her life. This poignant novel of a purposeful pig is sure to become a favorite with any young readers who have ever dreamed of exploring the great beyond.

Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (November 3, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0544540700

ISBN-13: 978-0544540705

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.9 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (50 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #160,043 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Polar Regions](#) #245 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Pigs](#) #671 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Cats](#)

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

Flora has far more energy and spunk than her lazy brothers, and a taste for adventure. Yet the pig pen offers little opportunity for anything new and interesting . . . until she escapes and meets up with the dogs on the farm, while they're in training, pulling a cart. That gives her a dream: Being a sled-pig! Wanting to head off on an adventure, she later intentionally gets caught in her pen by humans. She thinks she's off on an expedition to the Antarctic, although her guess about why she's on the ship there is much different than the humans' intention (bacon, ham, etc.). She learns how to help hunt for rats on the ship, befriends a cat and a boy, all the while hoping that she'll eventually be leading a team of dogs across the South Pole. Some unexpected turns of events lead to Flora proving herself as a South Pole pig. This could possibly be compared to *Charlotte's Web* in how Wilbur becomes more than just a mere pig, but I was reminded of the lesser known book, *Babe, the Gallant Pig*, where Babe becomes a sheep-herding pig, because it also involves friendship

between a pig and dog and a working relationship with a human that thus deems the pig something more than food. The fact that this story has been done before in other fictional pig books could beg the question, "Do we need another one?" My answer is, "yes!" That fact doesn't detract from this being an excellent story with a likeable character. Flora is relatively clueless (she has no idea what pigs are generally used for until told), but she's full of a zeal for life, optimism, and a knack for making friends--dog, cat, and human--that all together make her really likeable and someone to cheer for. I really enjoyed this book, and think Flora deserves a literary life filled with adventures.

I'm an elementary school teacher. Since this was in the Bluestem award list this year and our school librarian recommended it as a great book for a read aloud, I purchased it for my class. They really enjoyed listening to this story! It was silly and thrilling and even tugs at your heartstrings sometimes.

This book is about a pig who wants to pull dogsleds. Flora is funny and entertaining. Flora has always been adventuresome. She wants more out of life than being stuck in a pigpen. And she gets her chance when she's sold to some guys who are headed to the Antarctic. Little does she know she has been bought for food. She thinks this will be her big chance to be a sled pig. This was a cute story. My kids loved it. Flora is a positive character, always looking on the bright side, willing to try most anything. She meets some lazy cats and befriends any creature she speaks with, except the rats. My daughter loved the pictures. There aren't many, but every so often there is a black and white sketch like those on the cover. This was a fun book with a happy ending and good morals too. At 278 pages, it might be a little long for young, reluctant readers. Other than that, this book is a keeper.

Flora wants an adventure, but first she must figure out a way out of her pigpen. Adventure comes her way she she ends up on a ship bound for Antarctica. Being a pig going places on a ship isn't adventure enough for Flora though, she wants to be a sled pig. She might even get her chance to be more than breakfast when the shipwrecks and the crew is stranded. Flora and her unlikely friends (a cat and a dog) must figure out how to keep Flora from being breakfast and how to survive long enough for the rescue team to arrive. This book was super cute. It has both funny and serious moments in it that kept this adult reader entertained. I thought Flora was a wonderful character and enjoyed how her voice was different from both that of the dog and cat characters too. I liked how the story was about one pig's determination to be more than what life says she should be. Yet, that wasn't all, it also had a component of teaching children the importance of teamwork and friends

come in all forms. From the little boy that cares for Flora and the other animals to the cat and dog finally becoming friends too. It made the story fun with a purpose. 4 Stars.

This is a terrific adventure tale that warms the heart despite all the ice and snow. It reminds me of *Charlotte's Web*, and *Adventures of a South Pole Pig* may also be a classic someday. Some of the main themes are forming diverse friendships, finding one's place in the world, looking beyond stereotypes, being brave and then some, and working as a team. The tale is gripping when the people and animals arrive in the South Pole; I couldn't put it down after that point. I highly recommend this as a read-aloud or a read-alone for students in grades 2-6. I just love Flora and her friends and hated to leave them behind. Hopefully, we'll meet again in other books. B. Katz,
Elementary Librarian

Children's books are filled with memorable pig characters. Classics such as Freddie the Detective, Charlotte's friend Wilbur, and Babe the sheep-pig have been joined in more recent years by characters such as Poppleton, Mercy Watson, and Nanny Piggins. To those wonderful porcines we must add a new member: Flora the sled-pig. What animal lover, young or old, could resist a book with the unlikely title: *The Adventures of a South Pole Pig*? How on earth would a pig wind up in the Antarctic, we wonder? Well, readers, never fear, author Chris Kurtz weaves indomitable piglet Flora into a charming South Pole adventure story filled with slops, friendship, danger, and humor. Flora, a piglet on a farm that raises sled dogs, wants nothing more than to explore beyond the limits of the pigpen she shares with her mother and siblings. When she briefly escapes and has a chance to meet the dogs training at pulling sleds, she wants to join their pack, and soon is on the way to the South Pole with a bunch of dogs. While she thinks she has a special mission to help the sled dogs, the reader quickly suspects that the cook has other plans for her (bacon, anyone?). But when an iceberg hits their ship in the South Pole, it's the courageous Flora who saves the Captain's life. Few of her shipmates survive, and soon it's Flora who has the chance of a lifetime to prove her mettle as a brave and irreplaceable member of the pack. Will she succeed in helping to rescue her shipmates? This story would make a terrific read-aloud for a classroom or family, as well as a novel that children 8-12 could read easily on their own. The novel has many appealing characters, among them a somewhat haughty cat, Sophia, who needs Flora's help to catch rats, a wise lead dog, Oscar, and a courageous young cabin boy, Aleric. The novel is enhanced with adorable black and white illustrations by Jennifer Black Reinhardt. Highly recommended!

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