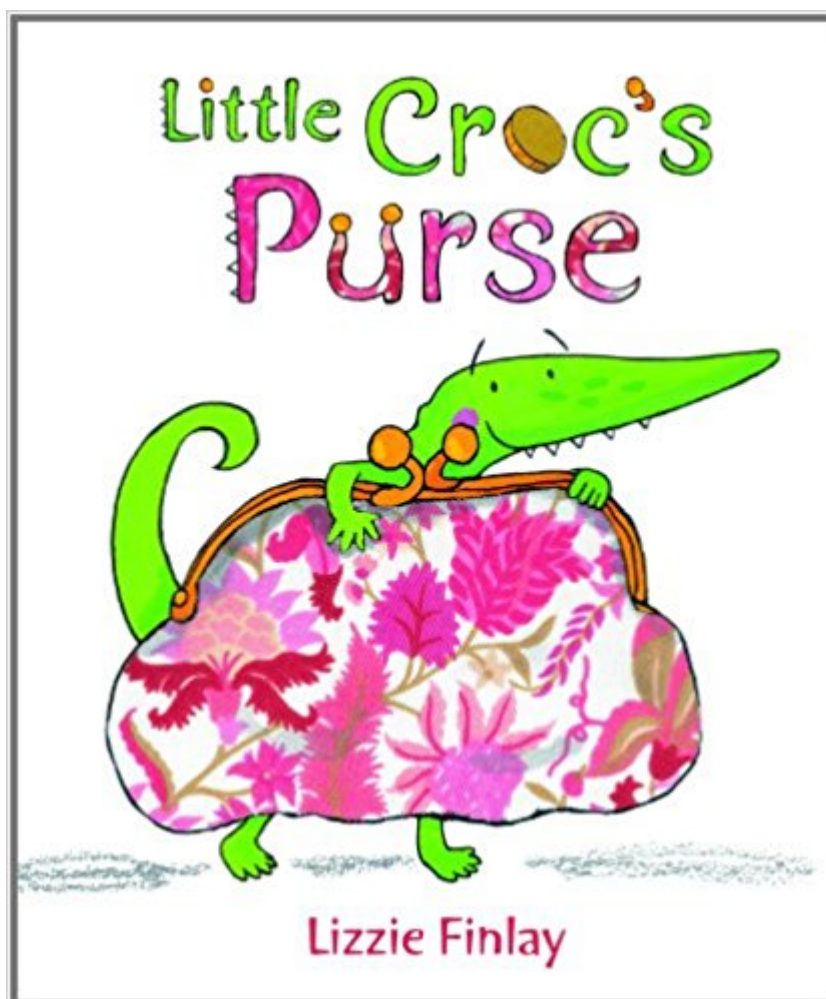


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Little Croc's Purse



Synopsis

When Little Croc finds a purse full of money, he and his friends have all sorts of ideas about what they could spend it on. Should Little Croc keep the money for himself, or try to find the owner? When he decides to return the purse, Little Croc learns important lessons about sharing, saving, and spending. Lizzie Finlay pairs charming and humorous illustrations with this light-hearted tale that will have readers rooting for the resolute Little Croc as he overcomes pressure and does what he knows is right.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 570L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 36 pages

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Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 0.4 x 10.5 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #726,933 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #151 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Alligators & Crocodiles

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

AWARDS and RECOGNITIONS • Bank Street College, Best Children's Books of the Year
Kirkus Reviews "Demonstrating the many rewards of Right Action, Little Croc fends off his importunate friends and resolutely hauls a large coin purse he's discovered under a bush to the police station — past an oh-so-tempting shoe store, a lemonade vendor, a charity worker and Murdock, a menacing punk. In rushes the owner a little later to rescue a prized locket and then give Little Croc everything else! Unconcerned that it's a purse, and covered in pink flowers to boot, the delighted reptile adopts the fashion accessory and divides the cash inside into 'spend,' 'share,' and 'save' piles. He then treats himself to a lemonade and a coveted pair of red cowboy boots, makes a donation to the charity, buys gifts for all

his buddies (and even Murdock), then goes home to drop the last coin in his piggy bank and dream of saving for a matching cowboy hat. Placing her all-croc cast in an upscale village setting and tucking in some visual jokes (the lemonade comes from 'Croc Monsieur's caf?), Finlay gives the episode a bright and breezy look. Along with making worthy points about the benefits of honesty, modeling responsible financial behavior and even somehow managing to keep Little Croc from coming off as a goody-goody, she introduces a young hero who is refreshingly oblivious to gender expectations "bravo." Publishers Weekly "The pink flowery purse that Little Croc discovers during hide-and-seek looks innocent enough " but it's actually an accessory masquerading as a moral minefield. Will the substantial money in the purse lead Little Croc into temptation? "Would the owner notice if he borrowed some money from the purse?" Little Croc wonders, spotting some zippy red boots in a store window. Why not just cave to peer pressure and social norms? ("No one returns things nowadays!" his friends shout.) While Finlay (Dandy Lion) dangles the possibility of dishonesty in her story, the outcome is never really in doubt; Little Croc is the kind of character who literally scolds himself. Not only does the green hero take the purse straight to the police, he also divvies up the reward in a manner that any parenting magazine would applaud, parceling out amounts for "spend, share, and save." The mixed-media pictures have a sweet, unaffected exuberance. . . But readers will figure out early on that they're in for a surplus of life lessons."

Lizzie Finlay completed her BA in illustration at Exeter College of Art. Little Croc's Purse is her second picture book after Dandy Lion (Red Fox). She has also illustrated several other books, including the books in the Pony-Crazed Princess Series (Hyperion).

My five year old granddaughter loves this book and wants to read it over and over. the story makes its point

The children were enthralled. Would Little Croc, in his determination to act with integrity, make it past mean Murdock? The cad wanted to steal the purse that Little Croc was turning in to the police station! And how about those lovely red boots "on special no less" and a cool glass of lemonade on a hot day? Surely he could borrow from the rightful owner . . . or could he? Then there was the panhandler . . . I loved reading this book to the children age five and up at our local day care. And perhaps they were as moved as I was near the end of the story when Little Croc gave Murdock his first present ever. This story lends itself to dramatic reading, and the illustrations are a

wonder. With just a few strokes, Lizzie Finlay portrays curiosity, pleasure, menace, effort—and the joy of a well made choice.

This story reminded me of the word temptation. Kids (and adults) can be put in positions where they are tempted to make the wrong decision - because they might benefit. Long story short here.....Little Croc does the right thing but not without his friends pressuring him to keep the purse. In the end, he gets to keep the purse as his reward for being honest. The only thing I would change in this story is putting more focus on the internal rewards he received for doing the right thing. Sure, it's great he gets the purse - but that's not the TRUE reward. Make sure to go into this with your kids/students. Definitely glad this is on my bookshelf. There are not a ton of good picture books on stealing so I'm happy to see this one published.

Little Croc's game of hide-and-seek with his friends took on an unexpected twist when he found a purse filled with money. Although his friends all wanted to divide up the cash, Little Croc decided to do the right thing by bringing the lost purse to the police station. Many temptations for spending that money lay along the way, though. Would the purse and all the contents ever find their way to the rightful owner? A lesson at the end of the story about saving, sharing, and spending money make the book a useful vehicle for talking with young children about some of the basic functions of money. Humorous illustrations help to liven up the story and encourage children to think about the scruples of finding lost valuables.

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