



Stuck in the Muck - Brett Avison

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On a rainy day, Milky the cow wanders out into the paddock and becomes stuck in the mud. What a fuss! Her bellowing soon brings young Bryn and his dog Oscar racing to her aid.

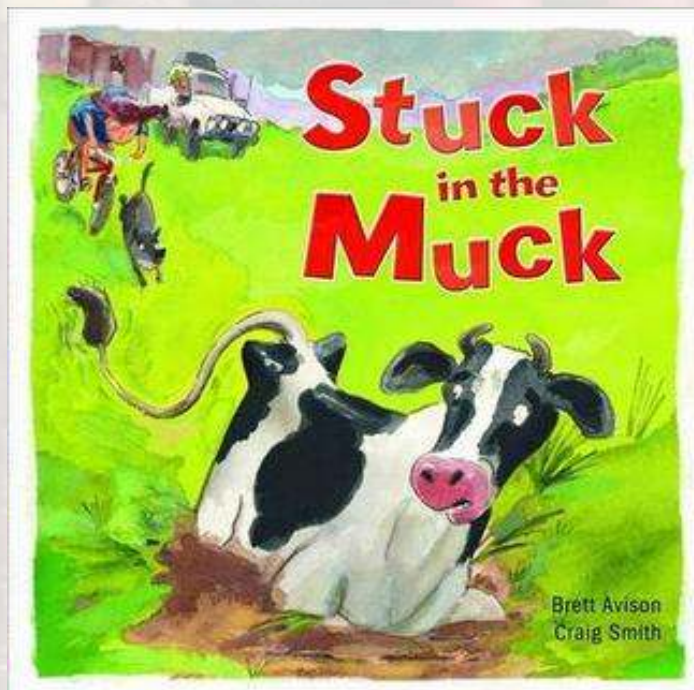
Milky is a family pet and everyone makes an effort to drag her to safety. Mum gets out the quad bike but 'the grass was too slick and the wheels wouldn't stick.' Ted revs up the pick-up, but 'the old engine was tired, it misfired and expired'.

Neighbour Ken comes over with his bulldozer, then the fire brigade is called to help. The energetic rhyme gathers intensity as the melodrama deepens. Regardless of everyone's attempts, Milky stays stuck in the muck.

Award-winning illustrator Craig Smith adds humour to the growing line-up of anxious helpers and disabled machinery. People are shown in constant movement as they scurry back and forth trying to free Milky. The plump cow takes centre stage and performs like a true drama queen. Panoramic and aerial views of the countryside are a visual delight.

A huge pop-up near the end highlights the climax of the story. Another attractive hardback book by this creative team.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett.



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