



***Farmer John's Tractor* - Sally Sutton** Illustrated by **Robyn Belton**

Published by Walker Books, RRP \$29.99

Drama, exuberant rhyme and superb illustrations make a grand combination in this hardback picture book. The partnership between author and illustrator works well.

Robyn Belton's flowing watercolours accentuate the danger of a family trapped in a car in a flooding river.

Meanwhile, "Farmer John's tractor lies locked in the shed. Rusty yet trusty and orangey-red."

A variety of transport and rescuers brave the slanting rain and deep river to help the family. "But look how its wheels spin around in the muck. It sinks ever deeper the tow truck is stuck."

Belton's stormy washes swirl across the pages in accord with the rising waters. Bright-red vehicles emphasise the emergency situation. It's time to bring in reinforcements. "The girls see him coming, but how can they trust this clanking old tractor, all covered in rust?"

Families will enjoy the excitement in this realistic rural story. An added pleasure is the wonderful array of objects to discover in the rustic shed.

**Reviewed by children's book author
Jean Bennett**

**Author's website:
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