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Anton and the Battle - Ole Konnecke

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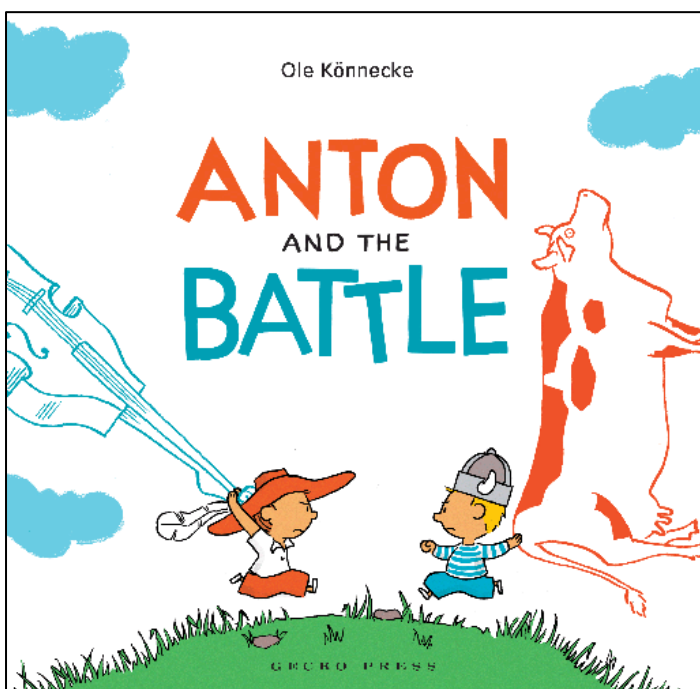
Anton and Luke featured in the award-winning *Anton Can Do Magic*. Now the friends return as contestants in the familiar childhood scenario, "I'm bigger, faster, stronger than you."

Imagination runs riot as the pair enter into battle with grim determination to be the winner. Take a look at the cover illustration and you'll get the picture. The boys' fierce attitude to the duel is both humorous and realistic. But can there be any winners when friends become rivals for supremacy?

Konnecke perceptively develops the characters of the two young boys flexing their muscles. Attention focuses on the combatants as they strive for conquest. Their weapons become larger and more outrageous in their efforts to outdo each other.

In the middle of the contest, the action pauses with the arrival of a creature that scares them both. Their shared anxiety draws them together, although it's not long before they're bickering again.

Comparisons could be made between diverse people or countries that struggle to find peace or common ground. Gecko Press delights in publishing books that give readers thought-provoking stories to consider and discuss.



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