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Bang – Leo Timmers

Publisher: Gecko Press

RRP \$19.99

Sheer delight! This eye-catching, nearly wordless picture book will have readers laughing out loud.

One moment of inattention leads to a chain reaction of momentous proportions. Each brightly illustrated scenario is a story in itself. Then it skilfully leads on to the next disaster.

The cause-and-effect of the distractions are a lesson in 'what not to do' when you're behind the wheel (reading a book is definitely a no-no). Yet, every incident is realistic and recognisable. With each turn of the page, youngsters will be calling out, "Oh no! Look out!"

Bold primary colours background the moment of collision, then the disastrous results are revealed. The cartoon-style animal characters have comical expressions and stylish clothes. Their wide-eyed reactions to the different situations is amusing. It's a shame to see the classy vehicles end up bent and battered. What happens to the goods and passengers in the cars adds drama and excitement.

Landscape design gives a linear flow to the story-line. A clever four-page fold-out details the impact of the final rear-ender. Amazingly, there's a touch of romance and a happy ending!

Bang should be required reading for all new drivers venturing out on the road for the first time.

Reviewed by children's book author Jean Bennett

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