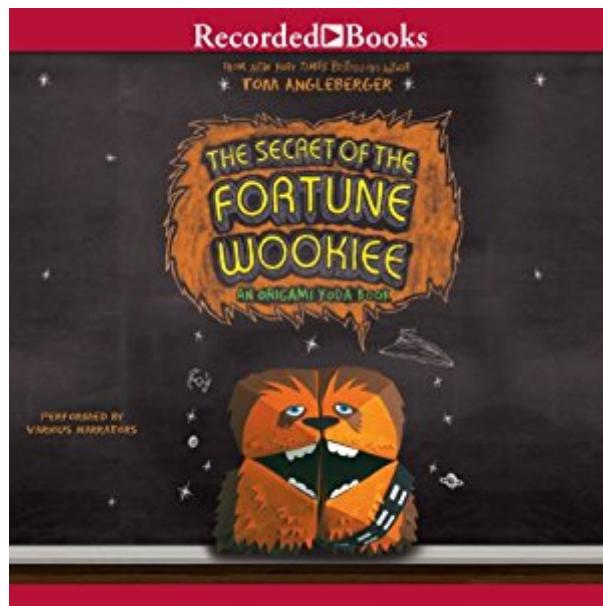


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The Secret Of The Fortune Wookiee: An Origami Yoda Book



Synopsis

With Dwight attending Tippett Academy this semester, the kids of McQuarrie Middle School are on their own - no Origami Yoda to give advice and help them navigate the treacherous waters of middle school. Then Sara gets a gift she says is from Dwight - a paper fortune-teller in the form of Chewbacca. It's a Fortune Wookiee, and it seems to give advice that's just as good as Yoda's - even if, in the hands of the girls, it seems too preoccupied with romance. In the meantime, Dwight is fitting in a little too well at Tippett. Has the unimaginable happened? Has Dwight become normal? It's up to his old friends at McQuarrie to remind their kooky friend that it's in his weirdness that his greatness lies.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Have you heard of origami yoda? If you haven't, you are seriously missing out. I know these books are more for the Diary of a Wimpy Kid audience, but if you are a Star Wars fan of any age, you will love these books. And they're not just for boys either - my daughter likes them, as do I. Let's face it, Star Wars is for everyone. :) Anyway, I just finished this book tonight with my daughter and we are already looking forward to the next installment, Art2-D2 coming March 2013. So what's the theology skinny on these books? Theology: Look to the force you should God is not discussed in any way, shape, or form in these novels. The kids look to these origami characters for advice, some might consider it prophesy or fortune telling (I don't personally). So some parents might have concerns. If you're the kind of parent that didn't want your kids to read Harry Potter because it was about witchcraft, then you probably won't like these books for your kids either. But we're not talking ouija

boards or the occult here, we're talking about a creative expression of kid wisdom. It's a fun read with a lot of Star Wars references, and I don't worry that my daughter is going to seek spiritual guidance from folded paper. Don't take it from me, read it and decide for yourself if you're worried. Rating: G The only profanity looks like this - #\$\$%&!!!. Good, family friendly fun. Nothing to worry about. Social Issues The themes in this book are individualism vs. conformity. Acceptance for who you are, not who people think you are. There is some fun poked at ridiculous school administration initiatives and teachers that don't 'get it.' The library is the only cool place to hang out (because the librarian is cool, of course). This is the third book in a series. So you might want to check out the first two before you read this one. They are all good reads. And with origami instructions at the back of the books, how can you go wrong?

Not since Harry Potter and Lemony Snicket have I so anxiously awaited the next book in a series. Tom Angleberger has used the tractor beam of humor to pull me into life at McQuarrie Middle School. "The Secret of the Fortune Wookiee" is the third in this chronological series. Although the characters can stand alone, there are several pivotal plot elements that have their foundation in the two previous books. I do recommend starting with "The Strange Case of Origami Yoda" to see these developments. The language and age-appropriate vocabulary are perfect for both genders. Each chapter is an entry into a case file on the characters, who are all in seventh grade. The students do the writing and the illustrating. The imaginative illustrations add much to the page - don't skip over them, as they contain some of the best one-liners in the story. The major conflict comes from Dwight being missing from the school. Dwight is the creator and medium for Origami Yoda. Using the Force and wisdom of the Jedi, Origami Yoda was able to find unique solutions to difficult problems for the guys. They are left to their own devices until Sara, Dwight's neighbor, brings in Chewbacca, the Fortune Wookiee. Tentatively, the group begins to use Chewie to contact the Jedi Force and make life easier. The Wookiee speaks, and Han Foldo interprets the Chewbacca wail into English. The results are not what the group is used to, to say the least. This book explores a touching story line about being different from other kids. The author treats this topic with candor and sensitivity. All of the kids in the group have a stake in understanding how it feels to be different and special. Some of the conflict resolution holds counseling gems that we can all use to advise tweens on their journey to become the wonderful individuals that they are gifted to be. This is a heartwarming adventure through the Star Wars philosophy with an injection of preteen angst, wonderfully woven together. Plenty of secrets are told, and my favorite teaser is... Sara will finally reveal the truth and nothing but the truth about the Fortune Wookiee.

To be honest, I was surprised at how much I enjoyed this. When I first read The Strange Case of Origami Yoda, I didn't particularly care for it much but I knew my students would and I was right, they loved it. It's right up there with Diary of a Wimpy Kid in terms of popularity. In fact, I shared it with some fourth graders this week and had several ask for it afterwards (an indication of success to a librarian). By the time I finished the second book, Darth Paper Strikes Back, I'd really become rather fond of these kids, even Harvey redeemed himself to some degree. I thought this book would follow the same ark as the first two, but it surprised me by taking a different path. I should know better than to expect Tom Angleberger to take any expected path, the man is full of surprises. I think one of the things that shines through in this series of books is the fact that everyone is different and that's okay. In fact life would be very boring if everyone was the same, people like Dwight add spice to the world, as Tommy and his friends discover in this book. By the time the book is over, I wanted Dwight back with all his idiosyncrasies. If you enjoy books like Diary of a Wimpy Kid or Dork Diaries you will most likely like this book also.

Yes there's a bit of bathroom humor, mixed with lot of slapstick, and topped off with a healthy dose of everything boy. No, it isn't exactly what I envisioned my son to be reading. But what can I say? My nine year old has checked out these books from the library about a dozen times now. He reads them over and over until he has to return them. When I asked him what he wants for his birthday he says "Tom Angleberger books...any of them...I love them all." How can a book loving mom resist?

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