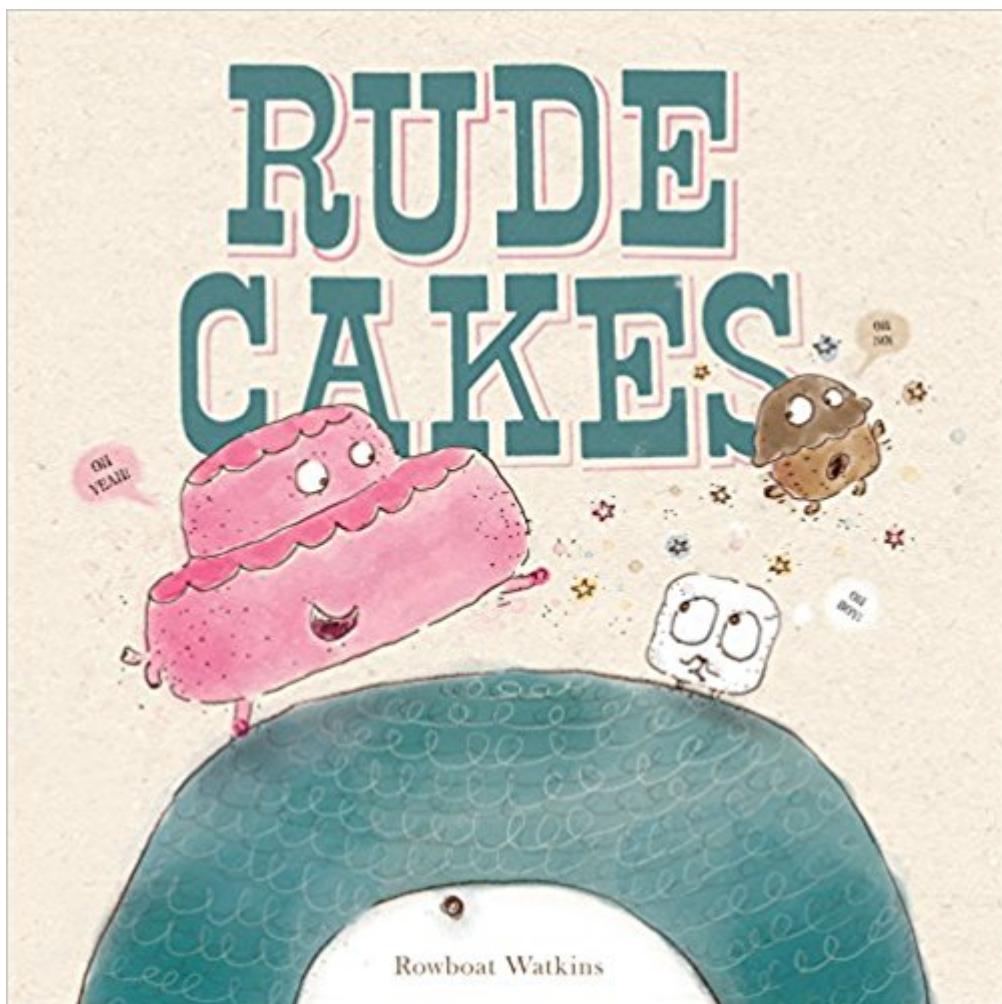


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## Rude Cakes



## **Synopsis**

2016 Ezra Jack Keats Book Award â “ New Illustrator HonorWho knew that cakes were so rude?! In this deliciously entertaining book, a not-so-sweet cakeâ ”who never says please or thank you or listens to its parentsâ ”gets its just desserts. Mixing hilarious text and pictures, Rowboat Watkins, a former Sendak fellow, has cooked up a laugh-out- loud story that can also be served up as a delectable discussion starter about manners or bullying, as it sweetly reminds us all that even the rudest cake can learn to change its ways.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: AD270L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Chronicle Books (June 2, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1452138516

ISBN-13: 978-1452138510

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.5 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 96 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #12,247 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Manners #75 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values #683 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Humor

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - Kindergarten

## **Customer Reviews**

PreS-Gr 1â ”In this amusing and downright bizarre tale, readers learn about cakes whose dispositions aren't nearly as sweet as their flavoring. One bratty confection, who never waits his turn and refuses to obey his parents, finally gets his comeuppance when a cyclops reaches into his bedroom window one night and eagerly scoops him up. Slyly subverting expectations, the author explains that cyclops don't eat cakesâ ”they enjoy wearing them as hats. But cyclops are far more considerate, and the one-eyed creature quickly returns the dessert to his home, resulting in a kinder, gentler cake. Children learning to say, "Please" and "Thank you" will delight in the over-the-top rude behavior here, such as the cake exploding with anger at a tiny marshmallow and

chocolate muffin. The use of dynamic, large fonts for emphasis, hilarious dialogue conveyed through speech bubbles, and the exaggerated expressions and responses of characters add further to the zany flavor of this story. Digitally created, with pencil and ink, the cartoonlike illustrations match the tone of the text, quirk for quirk. The strange creations depicted here have an adorably grotesque feel: the cakes are multilayered concoctions perched precariously on tiny peglike legs, while the monsters are toothy, big-eyed, hairy ovals. Watkins has whipped up a truly surreal story, crammed with hilarious details and gently laced with an important lesson; pair this one with Steve Antony's *Please Mr. Panda* (Scholastic, 2015) for a fun primer on manners. **VERDICT** This entertaining offering will make for a riotous storytime.â "Mahnaz Dar, *School Library Journal*

"A truly surreal story, crammed with hilarious details and gently laced with an important lesson."--*School Library Journal*, starred review *BuzzFeed's 29 Ridiculously Wonderful New Books To Read With Kids 2016* *Ezra Jack Keats Book Award* honor winner "Wacky!"--*Parents Magazine* "This witty, original debut... with adorably scruffy art and a clever, gag-filled story, Watkins brings a refreshing irreverence to the often deadly mind-your-manners genre."--*The New York Times* "The zaniest picture book premise of the year."--*Boston Globe* "The best picture-book debut of 2015 is Rowboat Watkins' *Rude Cakes*. "--*Phil Nel, Nine Kinds of Pie and The Nibblings* "Sweet as sugar with just the right touch of strangeness."--*Chicago Tribune* "Rude Cakes is a classic cautionary tale that also manages to be original, subversive, and very funny."--*Sergio Ruzzier, author of A Letter for Leo* "Packed with hilarious details and grin-bringing surprises - and it works in a lovely message, too."--*Design Mom* "Makes a familiar message about thoughtfulness fresh and tasty."--*Publishers Weekly*, starred review "Kids will be asking-oh so nicely-to 'Read it again, please!'"--*Booklist*, starred review "It's funny and it teaches some important lessons about manners."--*GeekDad* "In very few words and completely without preaching, *Rude Cakes* lets us laugh our way through a lesson on social skills and self reflection."--*Wink Books* "I love this book. I laughed from the first page to the last... a trip to the corner of Please and Thank You, sprinkled with deliciously unexpected twists."--*Jill McElmurry, author of Mario Makes a Move and I'm Not a Baby* "Hilarious and full of surprises. Pure picture book genius!"--*Antoinette Portis, author of the New York Times Bestseller, Not a Box* "Appetizing illustrations and scrumptious humour."--*Babiekins*

This book is weird -- really really weird. My three year old has been on a tear about bedtime stories and why they must be read on the ipad -- So I've made a lot of children book purchases for the Kindle app here on recently -- this is one of those books that makes me feel a little weird about

whether I'm getting fair reviews of a book on , it had a lot of 5 stars and I can't possibly give this book 5 stars, that would place it on the level with the greatest children's books of all times... and this isn't that kind of book -- but in the end, this isn't about me, this is about the toddler and whether or not she likes the book. But more about me.. and my needs....First, this book has a message to deliver -- I think that's clear by the title, but let me just summarize it the way I read it -- our story follows a rude baked good... a cake to be exact, the cake is rude to other baked goods and his/her/its parents... hence rude cake... fine-- bad cake, bad. Soooo, at some point, after bedtime for the baked good in question, he/ she/ it is abducted by a very pleasant cyclops -- and taken somewhere where the rude cake is shown off to the cyclop's friends, many pleasantries are exchanged regarding the rude cake, who they think is a hat. After some protest, from rude cake, the cyclops realizes they were wrong for abducting rude cake and pleasantly returns rude cake to his/her/its bed. Hmmmmmmmmmm????? I get it... no wait ....I don't. The main message is clear, I get that -- how the author came up or even connected these strange characters to one another, I don't get it -- because THAT doesn't make ANY sense -- if my summary sounds crazy well ...there ya go-- Just my opinion, I'm 40 years old --BUT my three year old LOOOVVVVEEEESSSSS this book.... say what? So I can't write it off as a waste of money, I didn't like it... I cringe when she points to it every night because it's so weird -- but the truth is the toddler loves it and in the end that's all that counts, I have no idea what's going on in that three year old mind that makes this book even decent, but LOVE??? -- Soooo, three stars from me-- 5 stars from my toddler -- that said, it's my account, so three stars it is... she can write her own review.

Rude Cakes is charming, funny, and utterly captivating, with a surprising twist and an endearing conclusion that can only be described as delicious. The illustrations are witty and original, with a steampunkish typefaces that lend an old-school, hand-made quality. It is wise, heart-felt, and completely adorable.

Really cute book, really cute illustrations. The text talks about being curious, polite and showing empathy in a playful way that isn't drilled into every page. There's quite a bit of comic relief and silliness to keep little ones interested and wanting to read again.

Let me just say that I love 's "look inside" feature. My 4 year old son is really picky about his books - they have to be hardcover and they HAVE to have good graphics. I looked at this book and it made me laugh so I ordered it. My son loves this book - when I first got it he would make me ready 2 or 3

times a night (and sometimes during the day). Very cute and very funny - also recommend "Veggies with Wedgies" very very funny and also one of his faves!

The writing style of this book reminds me of "Dragons Love Tacos". If you enjoyed that one, I would give this a try. This book gives plenty of opportunities to discuss manners.

Leaving aside the wonderful plot twists and unique, imaginative illustrations, this book works because it's a comedy of manners, not a lecture about manners, and kids always know the difference. Even the well-mannered cyclopses are inadvertently cruel to the rude pink cake before coming to their senses, and the cake has to channel its own rudeness to rescue itself from becoming a cyclops hat. The wholesome lessons are clear, but never feel like lessons. Bravo!

The 3 star rating is for some interesting reasons. First off, I do love the book. However, I have to mark down the stars because I want to be able to read it as a bedtime book to my toddler, but it is a mix of prose and comic book dialog. As a result, it is really hard to just sit down and read it aloud. This format for the verbage really limits its usefulness. If it was pure standard prose then it would definitely be a five star book.

I hope to share with my grandkids one day...cute concept to demonstrate that the power of kindness adds quality to our lives. Sweet!

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