

OWL AND THE Mystery of TOMORROW

RÉKA KIRÁLY

TRANSLATED BY
MIA SPANGENBERG



Owl and the Mystery of Tomorrow

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Forest animals stay awake all night to try and understand the meaning of tomorrow in this colorful picture book about the language of time.

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KEY SELLING POINTS

- Forest animals try to understand the meaning of tomorrow by reflecting on what they did yesterday and today and staying up all night to watch for when tomorrow begins.
- Simple dialogue captures children's curiosity and confusion when they learn relative time expressions like yesterday and tomorrow.
- Bold, colorful art complements playful philosophical musings.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Photo credit: Eva Rinne

Réka Király is a Hungarian-born graphic designer, illustrator and children's author. Her books have been awarded The Most Beautiful Children's Books of Finland prize and the White Raven. Réka uses odd color combinations in her works and is fascinated by modular systems. She lives in Helsinki.

PROMOTIONAL PLANS INCLUDE

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- Promotion at national and regional school, library and trade conferences
- Extensive ARC distribution, including NetGalley
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- Outreach in Orca newsletters

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TODAY is just another normal day.
Or is it? Maybe it's not so normal
after all...

TODAY the blueberries look like
giant blue balloons. And TODAY
the leaves on the trees are starting
to change color!

Hedgehog feels grumpy *TODAY*. He has
two leaves stuck in his quills!

And what is Mouse up to? She walks away
and comes back with a bucket.

TODAY Rabbit is just as perky as he always is.

And Owl? She's thinking and wondering about...*TOMORROW*!







Owl has a burning question on her mind.


"What exactly does *TOMORROW* mean?" she asks.

"I know!" Mouse answers.
"And that's why I need to leave right away! *TOMORROW* is *TOMORROW*, so I have to pick all the blueberries *TODAY*!"

And she scurries off.







The others stare at each other in surprise.

Does Owl really not know what *TOMORROW* means?

"Owl, you know what *TODAY* means, don't you?" Hedgehog asks.

"Of course I do! *TODAY* is a day," Owl says proudly.





Rabbit tries to explain what *TOMORROW* is.
"YESTERDAY I ate some juicy strawberries.
TODAY I'm going to eat a huge pile of grass,
and *TOMORROW*...um, well, I'm not quite sure
yet what I'm going to eat *TOMORROW*."

"Let me explain!" Hedgehog says, wanting a turn.

"YESTERDAY I had visitors, and we had a good chat about worms. TODAY I played hide-and-seek with Rabbit, and TOMORROW...Oh no! I don't know what TOMORROW will bring either!"





"Maybe something happens in the middle of the night,"

Hedgehog says, lowering his voice. "But we just lie there sleeping and don't notice a thing."

"Except I don't sleep at night," Owl points out.

"I've got it!" Rabbit exclaims.

"Let's all be night owls tonight!"







Because the friends all stay up together,
no one gets sleepy.

The night is quiet, and it's dark blue,
just like a ripe forest blueberry.

It's a little scary too.

Rabbit moves closer to Owl and Hedgehog.
When exactly will *TOMORROW* arrive?





Is it morning already? And look! Something
blue is approaching from the woods!
Oh no! Is that *TOMORROW*?
Everyone scampers off to hide.



"Good morning, friends!
Why did you run away?"
Mouse calls out.

"Hey, Owl!" Mouse goes on. "It looks like you've dropped something."

It's a letter. Mouse picks it up and reads it out loud.



PLEASE JOIN ME
AT MY PARTY
TOMORROW AT 2 P.M.

YOUR FRIEND, BIRD

*FEEL FREE TO BRING
PRESENTS!



Owl is worried. "*TOMORROW* didn't pass already, did it? Did we miss the party?"

"Don't worry," Mouse says with a laugh.
"The letter arrived *YESTERDAY*, and it
says *TOMORROW*. Now *TOMORROW* is here,
so the party is *TODAY*!"

"Is everyone ready to go?"





"Oh, the party is starting soon!" Rabbit claps his paws.
"I hope there will be cake."

"But what can I bring as a present?" Hedgehog fusses.

Owl is still thinking and wondering.
Then, finally, she gives a happy hoot.
She understands what *TOMORROW* means!



TODAY is a new day.

TODAY Bird is having a party!

Rabbit plays his accordion.

Hedgehog presents Bird with
a beautiful card. And Mouse
has brought freshly picked
blueberries.

TODAY everyone's mouth turns blue!

So...what will the friends
do TOMORROW?





FOR BIRD:

IMAGINE THE DAYS LIKE THIS:
YESTERDAY IS YOUR BUM.
TODAY IS YOUR TUMMY.
TOMORROW IS YOUR HEAD,
AND WITH IT, YOU DECIDE
WHAT YOU'LL DO NEXT!

YOUR
FRIEND,
HEDGEHOG





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