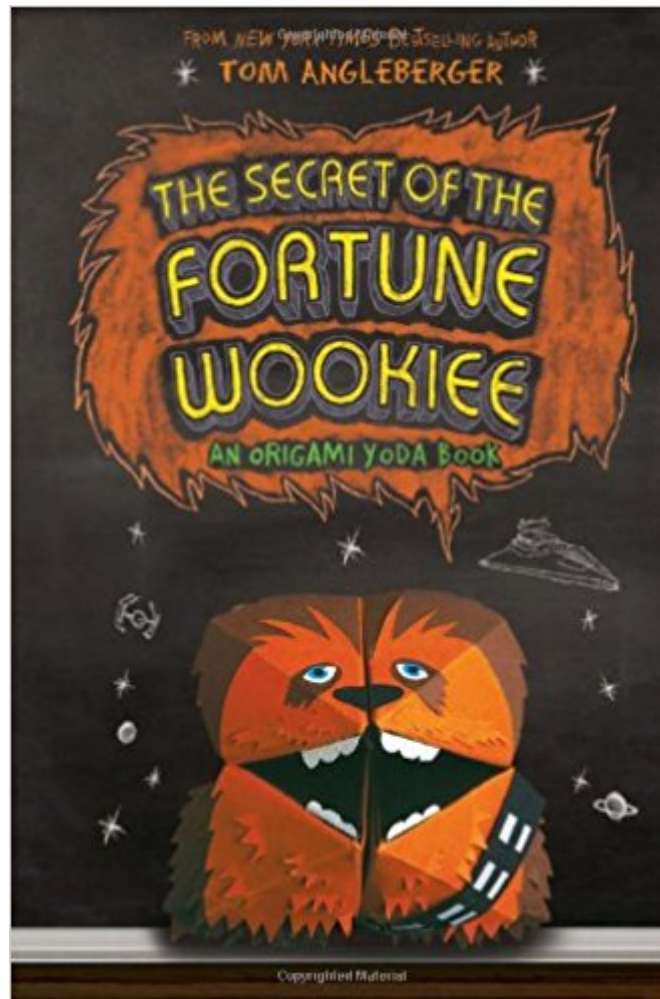


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The Secret Of The Fortune Wookiee (Origami Yoda #3)



Synopsis

With Dwight attending Tippet 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 Tippet. 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. This is the third case file in the blockbuster bestselling Origami Yoda series, written by Tom Angleberger, author of *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi: Beware the Power of the Dark Side*, showcasing his proven knack for authentically capturing the intrigues, fads, and dramas of middle school in a satisfying tale of friendship and just resistance to authority. • (Kirkus Reviews, starred review). Praise for *The Secret of the Fortune Wookiee* has crafted a worthy follow-up to his break-STARRED REVIEW "Angleberger's third in the series continues the fun. A chorus of spot-on middle school voices and plenty of laughs are wrapped around this tale of friendship and seasoned with Star Wars references." —Kirkus Reviews, starred review "Tom Angleberger offers a hilarious third book in his best-selling series starring origami Star Wars characters. Angleberger's grasp of middle-school emotions, humor and behavior is spot-on, and parents who want to get a sense of what it's like to be a preteen these days might consider reading this book. But you'll likely have to pry it out of your young reader's hands first." —Scripps Howard News Service Award 2013 ReadKiddoRead Kiddos - FINALIST

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

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).

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.

As the "Origami Yoda" series has progressed, I've noticed the books have become more critical of our education system, and some of its glaring flaws -- most noticeably the focus on test results over actual education, and the tendency for "problem" students to be swept under the rug and/or removed from the system entirely. Under normal circumstances this would bother me considerably. It's annoying enough when a book gets preachy, but when an entire series gets derailed because the author suddenly wants to use his books as a soapbox, especially when said series hasn't been preachy before now, it gets tiring. "The Secret of the Fortune Wookiee" manages to be an exception, however. Yes, it is very openly critical of the shortcomings of the American school system. But it remains true to the spirit of the series -- funny, witty, heartwarming, and an open and honest look at the lives of kids and preteens today. And its "message" fits in well with story without feeling crammed down the reader's throat. Of the main cast of the previous books (Dwight, Tommy, Kellen, and Harvey) there's a notable absence -- Dwight, the eccentric creator of Origami Yoda and dispenser of cryptic but usable advice and predictions, who is now attending a private school. In his absence his next-door neighbor, Sarah, provides her own brand of advice using a modified "cootie catcher" called Chewbacca the Fortune Wookiee, and a folded Han Solo puppet named Han Foldo. Naturally, Harvey sets out to prove her advice is full of hogwash, while Tommy is more interested in rumors that Dwight is unhappy in his new school... and that something dire is taking place at McQuarrie Middle School.

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