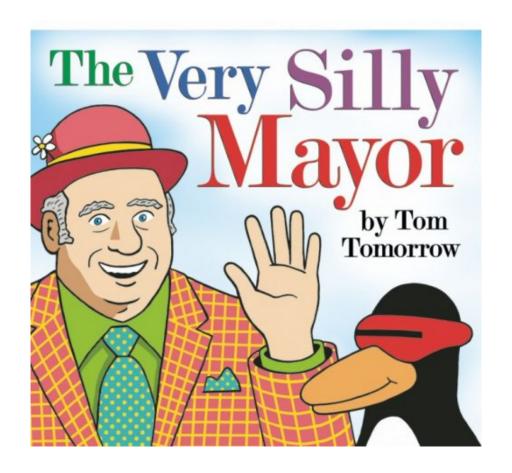


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About the Author

Tom Tomorrow's weekly comic strip, This Modern World, appears regularly in approximately 150 papers across the U.S. and Canada, as well as on Salon.com and Working for Change. He is the author of numerous carton collections, including Hell in a Handbasket and The Great Big Book of Tomorrow.

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"I have always admired Tom Tomorrow for his keen intelligence and penguin-based wit, but now he has unnerved me with a story of socio-political chaos that is at once completely ridiculous and sadly familiar."—Lemony Snicket

"This is a funny book with an important message: we need penguins in government."—Dave Barry

The mayor of the "medium-sized city" has some very strange ideas. Among them that firemen should put out fires using peanut butter instead of water and that policeman should chase robbers while wearing clown costumes. Needless to say, these decisions don't work out too well. When Sparky the Penguin wonders why nobody thought to question these silly ideas, he finds out that people were afraid of being laughed at if they disagreed with the mayor.

The first-ever children's book from legendary cartoonist Tom Tomorrow, The Very Silly Mayor uses Tom's unique combination of humor and social commentary to teach children to trust their own judgment, even if other people might disagree with their views or make fun of them.

One of the most influential comic artists of the past twenty years, Tom Tomorrow's weekly strip, This Modern World, appears regularly in many papers across the United States, as well as on Salon.com. He is the author of numerous cartoon collections, including The Great Big Book of Tomorrow, The Future's So Bright I Can't Bear to Look, and Penguin Soup for the Soul.

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Most helpful customer reviews

20 of 20 people found the following review helpful.

The Emperor's new clothes

By Joshua Zucker

At first I thought this was just another retelling of the Emperor's New Clothes story. Then I realized there was a political message about the role of the media and their failure to point out that the Emperor has no clothes. Then I read it to my 5-year-old and found that there was a message about speaking up against peer pressure, and also that peer pressure might not be pushing the way you think: it's more about what you perceive than what others impose.

When a short children's book can do all of the above, plus some fun illustrations, and a few really funny moments ... that's a definite success for me. I hope I can be reading this one at bedtimes for a while!

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

A True Gem at the Right Time

By L. Roth

Politics has been going off the rails in this country lately; screaming on cable TV, talk radio hate speech, town meetings turning into brawls. Think of the children!

Tom Tomorrow has - and he's crafted a wonderful tale that captures the essence of politics for children with Zen-like clarity. The very idea of government is under attack from some quarters, but Tom Tomorrow makes a case for it in a very straight forward and non-ideological way that children will have no trouble understanding. If we're going to have government, we're going to have people running it, and people are people.

When the Very Silly Mayor - just trying to do his job - comes up with some very silly ideas, we get to see what happens when accountability breaks down. Tom Tomorrow shows how the way people act can make a problem with government worse, and how they can fix it too. There's no violence, no name calling - in fact everyone is very polite - but some good lessons are there to be learned. The ending is classic!

Long time readers of This Modern World will recognize many of the characters and Tom Tomorrow's distinctive art work. (The colors are very bright!) It's a wonderful morality tale that both instructs and entertains - and works at levels children and adults will both enjoy.

Highly recommended, and a great gift for parents with children old enough to be read to at night.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Great for kids -- Children's Librarians take note!

By C. Vesei

As a long time fan of Tom Tomorrow's comics I knew the book would be good but I was curious to see how his caustic wit and interesting characters would translate into something for kids. I purchased the book for my son who is in 1st grade and my 4-year-old daughter and when the package arrived I ceremoniously opened it and it's been a huge hit with them ever since. I was pleasantly surprised by the degree to which The Very Silly Mayor is a compelling and entertaining tale for children that teaches them to stand up to peer pressure and common sense in a way that is light-hearted and amusing.

More importantly, it passed the little kid test. Since reading them the book it's become the sort of book that as a parent I have to read over and over yet it doesn't make me wince or groan every time the kids ask me to read it. Blinky and Sparky are lovable characters for children I've learned. In fact, my 1st grader has already brought the book into school for show-and-tell and asks me questions over and over about Biff, Sparky, Blinky and why the Mayor is so silly. As a librarian and parent who is always trying to get kids to love books and parents excited about reading to their children I strongly recommend this book. Librarians take note--I

think this would make a fabulous addition to public and elementary school libraries.

See all 31 customer reviews...

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