Jack and the Box (Toon Books) by Art Spiegelman

Jacks parents gave him a new toy and he cant believe how silly it is! Sometimes its funny and other times its scary. Sometimes it talks to him and other times it hides. At first, Jack loves all the surprises that his toy can offer, but after a while he starts to think his toy is a little too silly - in fact, its gone out of control!

Features:
* ISBN13: 9780979923838
* Condition: NEW
* Notes: Brand New from Publisher. No Remainder Mark.
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The comic fan in me picked this one first to read purely on Spiegelmans name. And from a sense of curiosity as to whether Spiegelman; a master of the comic form, could adapt his style to such a different and challenging audience as your average 4 year old. Personally, from the view of the grown up I definitely think he does.

Jack receives a little present from his mom and dad, a jack in the box. After initially being frightened of this silly toy, Jack starts to play with it and soon realises the fun he can have with his new friend (who he later finds out is called Zack). The initial scarryness of the character is quickly
overcome by Spiegelmans visual emphasis on making Zack just look silly plus the clever repetition of the phrase silly toy. Within a few pages Jack's reality makes way for fantasy and the adventures of Jack and The Box get wilder and wilder, with the introduction of Mack, who lives in Zacks hat and his duck Quack, and the lots and lots of little ducks belonging to quack. Chaos ensues in a very Dr Seuss-like way. In fact, with its simple set-ups and language, full of plentiful repetition for the young reader to play with, Jack And The Box felt very much like one of the good Drs works. And that, of course, is never a bad thing.

Visually, Spiegelman keeps things nice and simple, with rabbits playing the main roles and a page limited to 2 panels at most. But within this simplicity there is a beauty of design. Reality is a dull, faded blue colour scheme, but as fantasy starts to creep in, the backgrounds start to change, first yellow, then pale purple and finally bright orange when things are at their most chaotic. Its a simple, yet brilliantly effective touch. A child won't notice it directly perhaps, but the visual stimulus of the increased vibrancy of the colour will definitely have an effect upon the reader.

Jack And The Box would be a wonderful present to give to any young child. But to a child reluctant to enter the world of reading Jack And The Box, together with all of the other fine Toon Books, may just be the best present you could give.

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