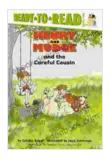
# Henry and Mudge and the Careful Cousin: A Tail-Wagging Adventure about Family, Friendship, and Overcoming Fears

In the quaint little town of Fish Creek, where the sunbeams danced upon the shimmering waters and the gentle breeze carried the sweet scent of blooming lilacs, there lived an extraordinary boy named Henry and his loyal canine companion, Mudge. Their bond was unbreakable, a testament to the enduring power of friendship and love.



#### Henry and Mudge and the Careful Cousin by Cynthia Rylant

★★★★★ 4.8 out of 5
Language: English
File size: 8568 KB
Print length: 48 pages
Screen Reader: Supported



One sun-drenched morning, as Henry and Mudge embarked on their daily adventure through the lush meadows that fringed their cozy cottage, a letter arrived that would forever alter the course of their lives. It was from Henry's cousin, Prudence, a young girl known for her meticulous nature and cautious disposition. Prudence announced her impending visit, eager to spend a summer filled with laughter, exploration, and perhaps a touch of trepidation.

Prudence arrived at Fish Creek with her signature pink bonnet and sensible shoes, her eyes wide with anticipation and a hint of apprehension. Unlike

her adventurous cousin, Prudence preferred the comfort of routine and the safety of familiar surroundings. But Henry and Mudge, ever the spirited duo, resolved to show Prudence the wonders that awaited her beyond her comfort zone.

Their first adventure took them to the sprawling park that lay just a stone's throw from Henry's cottage. As they skipped through the vibrant flowerbeds and chased elusive butterflies, Prudence hesitated at the edge of the towering slide. Fear gnawed at her as she gazed up at the slippery metal surface, its summit seeming an insurmountable obstacle.

Henry, sensing his cousin's unease, gently encouraged her, "Come on, Prudence! It's just a slide. It's not going to bite." Mudge, ever the loyal friend, wagged his tail enthusiastically, as if to say, "Don't worry, Prudence, we're here for you."

With trembling hands and a heart pounding in her chest, Prudence took a deep breath and slowly started her ascent. Step by step, she climbed the ladder, her determination growing with each rung. As she reached the top, a surge of exhilaration coursed through her veins. She let out a joyous squeal and launched herself down the slide, her laughter mingling with the summer breeze.

From that moment on, Prudence's cautious nature began to give way to a newfound sense of courage. She discovered the thrill of swimming in the cool lake, the joy of exploring the hidden paths that meandered through the nearby forest, and the satisfaction of making new friends among the neighborhood children.

As the summer days turned into weeks, Henry, Mudge, and Prudence forged an unbreakable bond. They learned the value of embracing differences, the importance of supporting one another, and the power of laughter to conquer any fear.

One evening, as they sat around a crackling campfire, roasting marshmallows and sharing stories, Prudence confided in her cousin, "Henry, I never thought I could be so brave. I used to be so scared of everything, but you and Mudge have shown me that anything is possible if we face our fears together."

Henry beamed with pride, his heart filled with joy. "I'm so glad, Prudence. You're a wonderful cousin, and I'm lucky to have you in my life."

Mudge barked in agreement, his tail wagging furiously.

As the summer drew to a close, it was time for Prudence to return home. But the memories they had made and the lessons they had learned would stay with them forever.

Henry and Mudge and the Careful Cousin is a heartwarming and hilarious adventure that celebrates the power of family, friendship, and overcoming fears. With its relatable characters, vivid descriptions, and timeless message, this book is a must-read for young readers of all ages.

#### **About the Author**

Cynthia Rylant is an award-winning children's book author known for her heartwarming stories and unforgettable characters. She has written over 100 books, including the beloved Henry and Mudge series, which has sold over 25 million copies worldwide.

Arthur Howard is a talented illustrator whose whimsical artwork has brought to life the characters and worlds of many beloved children's books, including the Henry and Mudge series.

#### **Additional Resources**

- Cynthia Rylant's website
- Arthur Howard's website
- Henry and Mudge website



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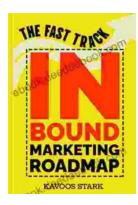
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