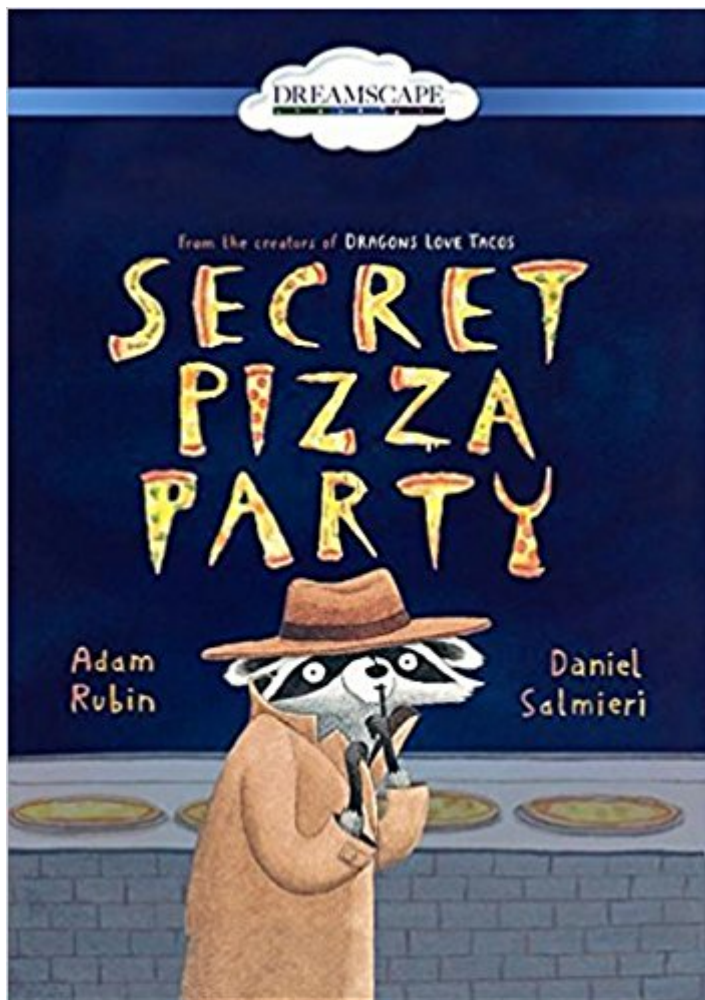


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# Secret Pizza Party



## Synopsis

How does Raccoon love pizza? Oh, let him count the ways. He loves the gooey cheesy-ness, salty pepperoni-ness, sweet sweet tomato-ness, and of course the crispy crunchity crust. But someone is always chasing poor Raccoon away from his favorite food with a broom! What's a hungry raccoon to do? Plan an elaborate secret pizza party, of course! But shhh! It's a secret! In fact, you should probably just forget I told you. Nope, no secret pizza party happening here. You didn't already tell all your friends, did you? Uh oh...

## Book Information

Age Range: 3 - 8 years

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 219 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 1-4 Raccoon, paws and nose pressed plaintively to the glass, stares longingly into a pizza parlor. His nemesis, the Pizza Man, chases him off with a broom, and an unseen narrator rhapsodizes, "Ah, pizza! So beautiful, you could hang it on the wall of a museum. So convenient you could eat it in the bathtub." Raccoon reappears looking forlorn, and the narrator suggests a pizza party at Raccoon's house—a secret pizza party because, "When you make something secret, you make it special. Regular handshake: Boring. Secret handshake: Booyah!" Wearing stilts and a trench coat, Raccoon absconds with a stolen pizza only to discover an enormous SECRET PIZZA PARTY happening nearby. Unfortunately, he is unable to play it cool and blows his disguise as he rolls around in a pizza-induced frenzy. He flees from the broom-wielding mob (led by the Pizza Man), but his armload of pizza and giant grin prove that he has no regrets. Because the narrator converses directly with Raccoon, listeners are aligned with him and identify with the roguish creature. The skillful gouache-and-ink compositions are full of sly details and visual humor. It's hard not to giggle at scenes like the lanky pizza man with angry

eyebrows and a handlebar mustache rolling out dough while glaring at a "Wanted" poster featuring the raccoon. With a casually diverse cast of characters, *Secret Pizza Party* is a sure hit for primary-grade kids, who will appreciate the subtle humor and absurdity. Anna Haase Krueger, Ramsey County Library, White Bear Lake, MN (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Raccoon, who loves pizza but finds himself bashed with brooms every time he pinches a piece, decides to throw himself a secret pizza party. He devises a clever heist and successfully navigates the chase home, only to discover his celebration is missing people to share his pizza. Luckily, he notices a crowd next door wearing masks just like Raccoon's and eating lots of pizza! The creators of *Dragons Love Tacos* (2012) offer another zany salute to a popular food.

Salmieri's gouache, watercolor, and colored pencil artwork features vivid colors, often set off against dark backgrounds signaling Raccoon's nocturnal habits. Although the plot meanders a bit, children aren't likely to mind given all the clever gadgets and outrageous scenarios depicted (in one scene Raccoon lounges atop a serving table, devouring multiple slices of pizza while the human guests stare speechless). This will be popular with pizza aficionados; pair with William Steig's *Pete's a Pizza* (1998) or Charlotte Voake's *Pizza Kittens* (2002). Preschool-Grade 1. --Kay Weisman --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Oh man, I hate leaving 3 stars but I have to. I'm such a big fan of these guys books. The art is adorable and there are definitely a ton of clever giggles to be had. But all in all, this book just didn't work. My son has asked me read it a few times since it arrived yesterday but I think the newness will wear off quick because he is left confused by many of the pages. I am not even sure how to explain it to someone considering this book. It's CUTE yes but the story just doesn't work right. I'm left explaining things like why people chase raccoons off with brooms and how secrets are only kinda cool but it depends on the secret. And the ending is so abrupt! We keep thinking there is another page. Now *Dragons Love Tacos* 1 & 2 are complete winners and will be in our collection for years to come.

Son absolutely LOVES Rubin's/Salmonieri's books: all the *Those Darn Squirrels*, *Dragons Loves Tacos* 1 & 2 and *Big Bad Bubble*, so thought *Secret Pizza Party* would be an automatic hit with him given his pizza obsession. Unfortunately, he was disappointed/not amused by this one, in particular

with the ending. In his words "just eh".

The book is very cute & the story is fun. HOWEVER the PACKAGING WAS NOT GOOD, The paper cover or Dust Jacket on the book has smudges all over it, this was meant to be a gift and now I cant give it with that, I will have to remove the cover and give the bare book to my niece. Not happy about that. :(

I borrowed this from the library because of the cute illustrations. The book was neither fun nor cute. I just read it to my almost 4 year old and cringed as I read: "When you make something secret, you make it special." Yeah, that's not what I want to teach my child. It sounds like something a pedophile would say to their victim. I continued on to read about the raccoon dressing up and going into the pizza store with no intention of paying: "Okay now, play it cool. You're just an honest pizza-buying citizen who left his wallet in the car. The pizza man thinks you'll be right back..." And then he steals from the store. Also not appropriate. Or funny or cute. This could have been a fun cute book, but it really missed the mark. I don't expect all books to preach moral lessons to my children, but when they specifically encourage keeping secrets and make a joke out of stealing from a store I am not impressed.

Our kids love this book, and the others we have by the authors.

This book is great for kids. I love this author!

got Dragons love Tacos by same people and really enjoyed. this one is not quite as good but it's about pizza, so i like as a change of pace.

Grandson loves this series

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