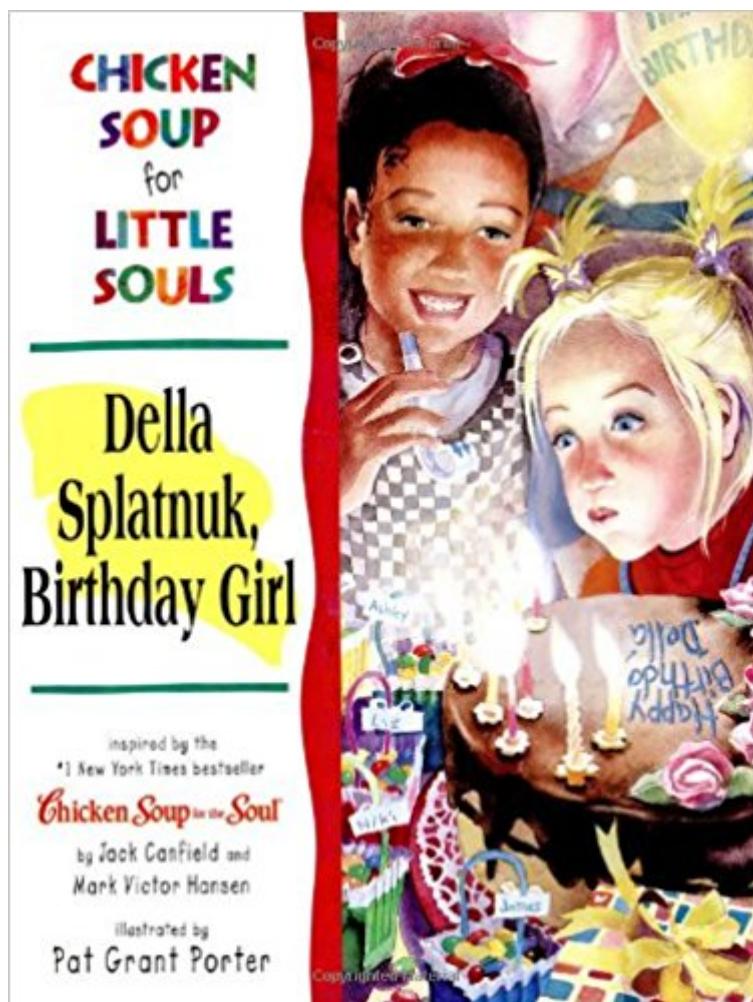


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# Chicken Soup For Little Souls Della Splatnuk, Birthday Girl (Chicken Soup For The Soul)



## **Synopsis**

The last thing Carrie wants to do is go to Della Splatnuk's birthday party. Everyone knows Della is weird, and Carrie's best friends have vowed not to go. But once Carrie is there, she begins to wonder whether Della is really all that bad, and whether all the kids who did not show up have ever given Della a chance. When Carrie looks within her own little soul to find an independence and conviction she didn't know she had, readers will learn that how people look doesn't always tell you what they are like inside. Just as Carrie learns amazing new things about herself, about Della and about friendship, children reading or listening to this story will learn to trust their own feelings when it comes to who is their friend, not the opinions of their peers. Lisa McCourt and Pat Porter previously combined their talents on *The Goodness Gorillas* (more than 110,000 copies sold).

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Kindergarten-Grade 3 Della's classmates don't want to go to her birthday party because they think she's weird "She has funny hair and she hardly ever talks." Carrie's mother insists that she attend, wearing her newest outfit and taking a carefully selected gift. The first to arrive, Carrie eyes her classmate warily while she waits for the other guests to appear. When it becomes obvious that no one else is coming and that Della is on the verge of tears, Carrie begins to feel angry that her friends have behaved so badly and decides to get better acquainted with the birthday girl. At the end of the afternoon, Carrie hands Della her present, says "Happy Birthday to my new true friend," and

finds that she really means it. The large, bright watercolor illustrations, mostly two-page spreads, do a fine job of capturing the different homes of the two main characters. They show the conventional middle-class household of conservatively dressed African-American Carrie and her mother and the more Bohemian lifestyle hinted at by the trendier clothing of Della and her fashion-designer mother. A gentle presentation of a serious message about friendship. Ginny Gustin, Santa Monica Public Library, CA Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Della Splatnuk is the weirdest girl in class, with her strange clothes and funny hair. She has invited her whole class to her birthday party. Carrie is definitely not going, since no one else is planning to, but Carrie's mother makes her go anyway. There's cake and fixings for 28 children, but Carrie, the first to arrive, waits with Della for other kids to show. No one does. Carrie sees how hurt Della is and talks to her, soon realizing she had been too quick to judge her. They end up having a ball--Della, Carrie, even their moms, dancing, making party hats, and playing games. Obviously, this story presents a finger-wagging lesson, but like other books in the series, it doesn't pretend to do otherwise. The cheery watercolor illustrations serve to carry the message, too, though Della, with her retro sixties look and her funky house, might seem to some children to be more typical than weird. But then again, that's the point. Shelley Townsend-Hudson

Not disappointed with used book. In very good condition. My Granddaughter loves all the Little Soul books

For teachers who have a student who is a little different and not easily accepted by the others in the class, this book is an excellent springboard for a discussion about compassion. My 4th graders were able to talk about how Della would have been treated at school and how they could make a difference to someone who is never chosen as a partner.

A picture is worth thousand words. Reading the story can choke up the mostest of woman. But when you see the pictures next to the paragraphs, you could just stare at the images and truly feel you were there even if you never had an experience like this

The reviewers might consider it didactic, but my kids loved the story! I also enjoyed reading it to them. And I think they took an important lesson from it!

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