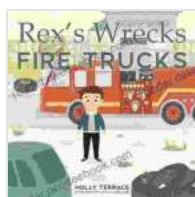


# Rex Wrecks Fire Trucks: An In-Depth Look at Jo Macauley's Passion for Preserving History

Tucked away in the small town of Boone, Iowa, lies a hidden gem—Rex Wrecks Fire Trucks. Founded by Jo Macauley, this remarkable collection of antique fire trucks serves as a testament to the enduring spirit of firefighting and the importance of preserving our history. With a passion that knows no bounds, Macauley has dedicated her life to restoring and showcasing these iconic vehicles, creating a destination that attracts enthusiasts from far and wide.



## Rex's Wrecks Fire Trucks by Jo Macauley

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 8577 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Print length	: 35 pages
Lending	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported



## The History of Rex Wrecks Fire Trucks

Macauley's journey with fire trucks began in the 1990s when she purchased a 1942 Chevrolet pumper truck from a local farmer. Intrigued by its history and design, she set out to restore it to its former glory. As she delved into the world of firefighting, Macauley discovered a treasure trove of vintage fire trucks that were facing neglect or the scrapyard. Inspired by

their stories and the vital role they played in communities across the nation, she made it her mission to save as many as she could.

## **The Collection**

Today, Rex Wrecks Fire Trucks boasts a collection of over 100 antique fire trucks, each with its own unique character and tale to tell. The oldest truck in Macauley's collection is an 1897 hand-drawn hose cart, a testament to the humble beginnings of firefighting. Alongside these historic rigs, visitors can admire a diverse array of vehicles from the early 20th century, including chemical wagons, pumpers, and hook and ladder trucks. Each fire truck has been meticulously restored by Macauley and her team, bringing their gleaming metal and vibrant paintwork back to life.



## **The Macauley Family's Legacy**

**Macauley's passion for fire trucks is deeply rooted in her family history. Her grandfather, Rex Macauley, was a firefighter in Boone for over 30 years. His dedication to the community and the importance he placed on preserving firefighting heritage left an enduring mark on Macauley. The name "Rex Wrecks" is a playful nod to her grandfather's nickname and a reminder of the legacy she carries forward.**

## Community Engagement

**Rex Wrecks Fire Trucks is not merely a museum; it is a vibrant community hub where people can connect with the past and celebrate the spirit of firefighting. Macauley regularly hosts events, demonstrations, and educational tours, bringing the collection to life and inspiring a new generation of enthusiasts. School children, history buffs, and fire departments from across the country visit Rex Wrecks, gaining valuable insights into the evolution of firefighting and the sacrifices made by those who serve.**



## Preservation and Advocacy

**Beyond restoring and showcasing fire trucks, Macauley is an ardent advocate for historic preservation. She has worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the importance of saving these iconic vehicles from neglect and destruction. Through her efforts, numerous fire trucks have been rescued from obscurity, ensuring that future generations can appreciate their beauty and significance.**

### **Recognition and Awards**

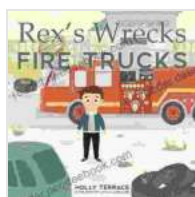
**Macauley's dedication to preserving firefighting history has earned her widespread recognition and accolades. In 2016, she was named Iowa's "Tourism Volunteer of the Year" for her contributions to the community and the state's tourism industry. Rex Wrecks Fire Trucks has also received numerous awards, including the National Association of Fire Engine Collectors' "Outstanding Museum" award and the American Fire Truck Preservation Alliance's "Hall of Fame" induction.**

### **A Legacy for Future Generations**

**Jo Macauley's passion for Rex Wrecks Fire Trucks extends beyond the collection itself. She is committed to ensuring that the legacy of firefighting and the preservation of these iconic vehicles continue for generations to come. With the support of volunteers and community partners, Macauley plans to expand the museum and create an educational center where visitors can learn about the history of fire trucks and firefighting techniques.**

**Rex Wrecks Fire Trucks is more than just a collection of antique vehicles; it is a living testament to the spirit of firefighting, the**

importance of preserving our history, and the unwavering determination of Jo Macauley. Through her passion, dedication, and tireless efforts, she has created a destination that inspires, educates, and connects people with the rich heritage of firefighting. As the collection continues to grow and visitors from around the world make the pilgrimage to Boone, Iowa, Jo Macauley's legacy as a guardian of history will endure for generations to come.



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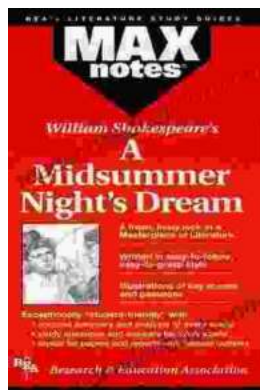
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