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How To Be A Baby . . . By Me, The Big Sister (How To Series)



Synopsis

The New York Times praised this best-selling picture book as "adorable, original, well-illustrated and fabulous." In this first book in the How-To Series (which includes How To Get Married and How to Get a Job), the know-it-all big sister narrator tells it like it is: When you're a baby you don't read books. You eat them. You don't know how old you are, or even if you're a boy or a girl. And you have to keep a special plug in your mouth to stop your scream from coming out. But one day, you won't be little anymore, and then you'll be taller and smarter, and actually quite clever. Like the narrator. And you'll be able to share memories of what it was like when you were little with your incredible Big Sister.

Book Information

Series: How To Series

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Dragonfly Books; Reprint edition (May 10, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375873880

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Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 0.2 x 11.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 124 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #22,417 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Baby](#) #149 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings](#) #150 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 3
"When you're a baby, you are in a crib and not in school," according to a worldly wise big sister, who reads from a book she has written for her new sibling. She itemizes a long list of things that babies cannot do, including play with her toys, sit in a car "like a normal person," or "have ANY pillows on your bed." Although she tends to focus on the negatives, in the end the unnamed protagonist admits that babies have some uses. She tells her brother that babies are "good at hugging" and "people smile at you because you're so small." She also describes what

life will be like when he gets bigger, looking forward to the day when they will "laugh and point at pictures of you in the olden days when you were a baby." The comical cartoons subtly convey the love that the rosy-cheeked girl feels for her round, placid sibling despite his limited abilities. The text and illustrations are scattered across each page in varying patterns. Heap uses acrylic paint, crayon, and felt-tip pen in a pleasing palette of pinks, blues, and yellows to enhance the story with childlike charm. This amusing title could be paired with Amy Schwartz's humorous *Annabelle Swift, Kindergartner* (Scholastic, 1991). For a more poignant look at sibling relationships, young readers might prefer Shirley Hughes's *Annie Rose Is My Little Sister* (Candlewick, 2003).
—Linda L. Walkins, Mount Saint Joseph Academy, Brighton, MA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review There are lots of books about kids and the babies they must endure, teach, and love, but few get the interaction down as perfectly as this marvelous melding of knowing observations and funny, sunny, on-the-money art. The narrator, a little blonde girl, has a long list of things that babies can't do. Go to school? No--stuck in a crib. Eat normal food? No--yucky baby food. Thinking of things that are inappropriate for babies reminds the girl of the many ways in which she's superior: babies don't have any real friends, but she has lots. The tall format offers plenty of room for the sweet, saucy, child-appealing watercolors, some looking as though they were created by the child herself; certainly the lines and squiggles on a few of the pages enhance that feel. Lists also cleverly adorn many of the pages, with headings such as "Things Babies Do That Are Illegal" (poop on the carpet). But in a heartwarming ending, Sister lists things that are nice about being a baby (people don't tell you to stop being a baby because you are one) and envisions the happy day when her brother gets big enough to follow her around, learn from her, and play with her friends (sometimes). With lots to look at, think about, and giggle at, this book will get many readings. Ilene Cooper
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We are in week 1 of bringing home the new baby and our 5 year old is frustrated. She wants to be a good big sis but also struggles with the way things have changed overnight. She doesn't want to talk about it much and while we read this book, she pointed out all the similar things she has experienced. It turned her mood around and the way the story flips to everything good about the baby got her talking about how much she loves her little sis. I can see why others may have

interpreted the tone to be rude and condescending but it's written from the perspective of the big sister and highlights everything great about being the older sibling. It wasn't rude in my opinion, just a fun way to express a 5 year old's view.

This book is really cute, my daughter checked this out from the school library and after reading it, it was a must have for our book collection. She has been begging me to buy it for her ever since, We now own the how to book series. I am going to be buying more for all my nieces. lots of fun things to look at on the pages, and not too much wording that the child gets bored while reading. Definitely recommend !!!

What a great book for a big sister. It really helps validate how they feel - with a positive message - when a baby comes into the picture. My daughter loved that this big sister was 6 years older than her baby too so she really identified and found that it is OK to think babies are boring even though they won't always be.

I received this as a gift for my two year old when I had a new baby. My four year old daughter loved it. My two year old loves pieces of it (she can't sit still for a book so detailed). The first time I read it I cried I laughed so hard! The basics are that it details how babies don't have it made-- as it may seem. Most big sibling books focus on the babies have to cry, be held, etc. But this book takes a humorous slant and makes it seem that the big sister has it made (helps the child focus on all the great things SHE can do--and shows how babies need all these special things because they AREN'T big like her). It is written from a big sisters' perspective so some of the things are put in a way that a parent may have worded differently. For example there is something about babies having a special plug to stop them from screaming....of course loving parents don't usually think of it that way--and would explain it that babies sucking on a pacifier feel comforted and calm. So maybe that is why someone commented that it was "How to be a brat" but I really think the book doesn't use that tone. The big sister focuses on things that build her confidence in a time when they may not feel as secure in all the changes. I do think it is a good idea to talk to a child that make take things very literally- for instance about the "plug" just so they know the parents' perspective. It end with a focus on the relationship between the baby and sister when they are a little older and that is something other books often leave out too. I really think it is a great great- fun fun book! I only wish they had a big brother book like this I could get for my nephew! It wouldn't be too hard -just turn the princess stuff into something more appealing for boys...

What a cute book!! I bought this for my daughter since we are expecting another. I thought it would make a cute preg announcement to have my daughter 'reading' this book. The seller that I ordered this from wasn't the best experience, but the book itself is very cute. Each page has a couple of sentences. I would recommend this.

I bought this as a gift, but because of the mixed reviews I read it first. I think it's perfect! I read it to my 7 year old and he enjoyed it too. The end is what makes it so sweet, I even got a little choked up. It closes with the little girl looking forward to the time when her baby brother is grown-up she can reminisce with brother about when he was a baby.

my 7 year old loves this book, it really helped her understand why its good to be a big sister, and she likes to read it to her 1 year old baby sister.

Bought this as a "big sis" gift for a soon to be big sister. She thought it was hilarious and loved it.

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