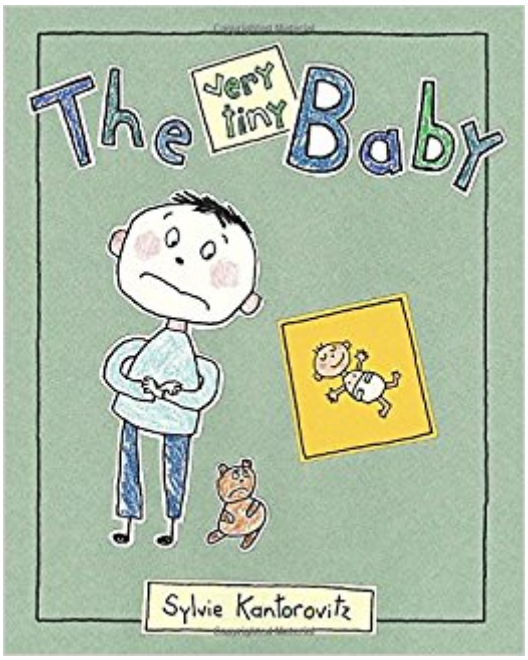
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The Very Tiny Baby



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Synopsis

Jacob learns that adults can be scared, too, when his new sibling is born prematurely. While Jacob has his grandma and his faithful teddy bear, Bob, with him at home while his parents are at the hospital, he still feels alone. The book portrays the range of emotions older siblings often have about a new baby, including fear, anger, and resentment, along with the added challenges of the preemieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s health concerns and parentsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ frequent absences.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 2.7 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

K-Gr 2Ã¢â ¬â •Jacob’s parents are excited about their expected baby, but the child isn’t so sure he wants to share the limelight. Then when the infant arrives too early and everyone-even grandma-is so preoccupied with its survival that they don’t pay much attention to him, he’s certain that the new baby is a bad idea. When the baby improves and eventually comes home, though, Jacob, assured of his parents’ love, is ready to assume his roles as big brother and helper. The hand-lettered text appears in several framed rectangles of varying sizes on each page. Most rectangles contain ink drawings colored with gouache and pencils. Although text and illustrations have a childlike quality, the story doesn’t gloss over how fragile life is for preemies, the anxieties experienced by family members, and even the complaints, often expressed here through the mouth of his stuffed bear, of a sibling who feels left out. A striking example is the solid black rectangle covering a page on which Jacob declares, "I wish the baby would die." Pumping of breast milk, hospital visit precautions, and care of preemies are all depicted. This story can provide information and comfort to youngsters experiencing worry about a sibling born prematurely or even for those who are preparing to share

parents with a new brother or sister.Ã¢â ¬â •Marianne Saccardi, formerly at Norwalk Community College, CT

Written from the perspective of an older brother, KantorovitzÃ¢â ¬â„¢s latest is also illustrated from a young childÃ¢â ¬â„¢s point of view. Designed with hand lettering and simple figure drawings that appear to be in crayon, the book tells of a premature babyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s arrival. Jacob is initially uncertain what effect this baby (still in his momÃ¢â ¬â„¢s belly) will have on his life. Then his parents suddenly go to the hospital and he makes a discovery: Ã¢â ¬Å“Grownups can be scared. I didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t know that.Ã¢â ¬Â• Almost every page of the book features multiple images, as if one of JacobÃ¢â ¬â„¢s ways of dealing with anxiety is by drawing lots of pictures. He draws self-portraits revealing his uncertainty (three question marks above his head) and frustration (dark swirls) as his family worries not about him but about the baby, who is still in the hospital. The tone lightens once the baby begins to thrive and Jacob can visit him. Kantorovitz ends the book on a sweet note, with an image of Jacob holding his sibling. Now it is JacobÃ¢â ¬â„¢s teddy-bear companion, Bob, who has question marks over his head. Preschool-Grade 2. --Abby Nolan

In her seemingly simple pictures, Sylvie Kantorovitz manages to convey the very complicated and complex issues of sibling jealousy, parental worries, and the facts of premature birth. The book is understandable by very young children but also very moving and touching for readers of all ages. The sweet ending is particularly uplifting, as the older sibling finds ways to love this very tiny baby.

We bought this thinking it is a children’s book. It is not. It’s about a serious and unusual family crisis. Although it could serve as a specialized educational tool, most children won’t understand it.

Not all picture books are for use with all children. This is one of those special occasions where I think you only want to use this book if the child has or is experiencing the situation that is the focus of the story. (See the description above.) The feelings of the child at home and the emotions that the entire family feels about a premature arrival and the corresponding complications will only resonate with someone who has been there or is there now.This is an excellent picture book and one that could be very helpful but I wouldn’t use it with all children nor with a family who is just "expecting". The focus here is the premature arrival not a normal birth so don’t raise this problem with a child before it happens. You don’t want nightmares either.Book provided by publisher.

This book is NOT FOR YOUNG CHILDREN! I am a very open minded person who is not a fan of censorship of kids books but this goes too far! I was reading this book to my four year old and eight year old and was horrified when it said "I wish the baby would die". We had a preemie and I thought this book would be a nice way to help them understand. I wish I hadn't read it to them. Also the somewhat graphic page about breastfeeding was not something I was prepared for.

While this is not a book one would pick up and read for enjoyment, I think it is perfect for any child (ages 4-8) experiencing a premature sibling. I really wish I knew about it a year ago, because I completely recognized my older child as I read it. It is a great book for acknowledging and validating an older sibling's feelings about having a premature sibling in the hospital. Yes, at one point the child wishes his sibling were dead, but not only is that honest and realistic, what does a child even mean by that? Most of us tell young children that death means the person is no longer here but in a good place such as Heaven, so is it really such a terrible thought for a child to have? I love all of the other realistic elements of the book, from incubators and hospital gowns to pumping breast milk. Having a picture book on this topic can normalize the experience for young children, and I would highly recommend this book for NICU families.

Gruesome parts to this book- NOT a good children's book- do not pollute your children's mind with thoughts such as "I wish the baby would die." And other thoughts such as placing the baby on the grass with signs up saying "baby for sale" and "Free!" Other ideas such as their parents "forgetting to love me." Inside somewhere is a good message, but the story could have been told without all the stuff I had to censor.

"I wish the baby would die" should not be in a children's book!

I am disturbed by this book. My child wanted to read about babies because she loves them, so we got this book thinking it would be a nice book! The book puts ideas and thoughts into children's heads that otherwise wouldn't be there. It actuallys says "I hate the baby" and "I wish the baby would die" and has an illustration of the baby with x marks as the eyes. I chose to make up other words as I was reading this to my child and I was so disturbed with the message that I brought the book to my husband and read it to him -he was equally as disgusted that this would be a children's book!! In the later part of the book it also has graphic illustrations of the mother breast feeding and using a breast pump. I realize that it is a real part of life, but does my child need to see detailed

pictures drawn in one of her books!? I thought this was a horrible book in general and would NEVER recommend reading this to your child- especially if you are preparing your child for an expectant brother or sister!

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