



B is for Baby

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News & Choice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

5

It is time to visit Baba in the next village. Big Brother will cycle over with a big basket of bananasand though he doesn't know it, baby. They will pass the baobab tree, cycle down the bumpy path, meet butterflies, birds and a baboon - and finally be welcomed by Baba.

Bold illustrations that fully occupy each spread whether as single pages or the double, crossing the gutter, bring this enchanting, accessible picture book to life. The artist's vibrant palette ensures each composition is not just immediate but full of details to extend and add to the spare text which revolves around the letter B creating a lovely rhythm with each repetition. The author, Atinuke, lives in Wales but here, as with her *Anna Hibiscus* and *No 1 Car Spotter* series, she takes us to West Africa and Angela Brooksbank responds bringing a landscape different to some but recognisable and familiar to others, to a vivid reality. We are with Big Brother as he cycles down that bumpy track; we giggle with Baby hiding among the bananas. Here we see a family that crosses boundaries, showing the young readers that affection, fun and relationships are universals and without any longwinded explanation because none is needed. It is all there in the perfect juxtaposition of text and illustration.

This is a truly joyous picture book that will be a delight to share with Baby, opening eyes and minds. It is one to join Handa and Mr Gumpy on the shelf or in the Kinderbox ? and will hopefully enchant babies and their parents (and grandparents) for many years

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