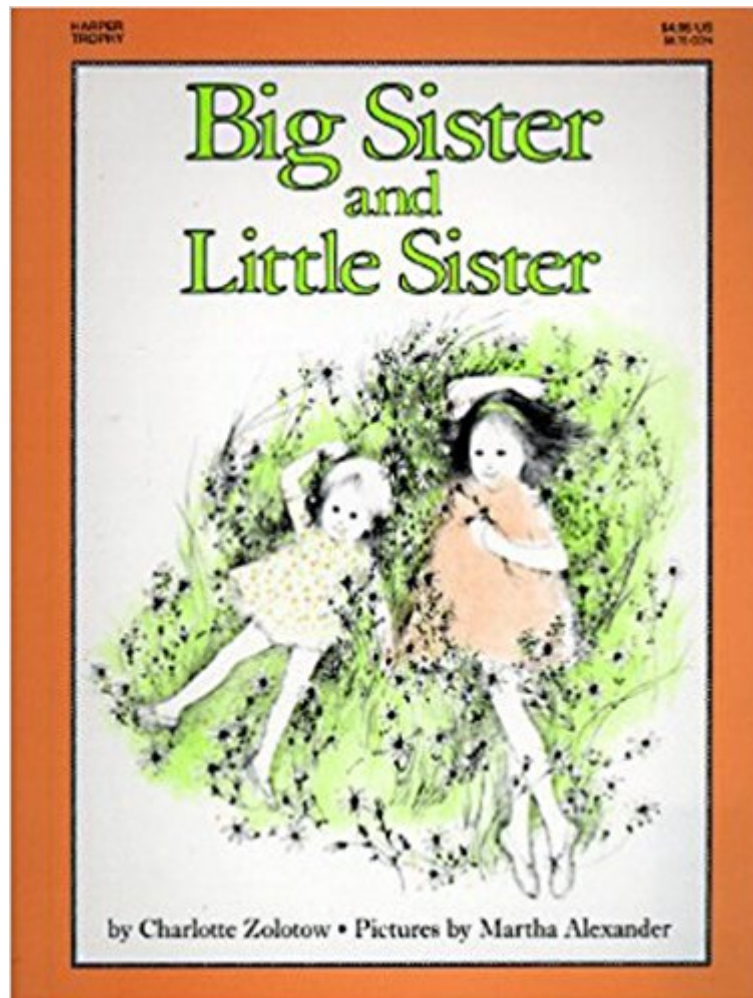


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Big Sister And Little Sister



Synopsis

A small girl runs away from her domineering older sister, only to discover how much she is needed and loved. TM ^{BL} Children's Books of the Year 1966 (CSA)

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 570L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; First Edition edition (January 29, 1990)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0064432173

ISBN-13: 978-0064432177

Product Dimensions: 8 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [^] [^] See all reviews [^] (43 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #98,820 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in [^] Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Runaways #49 in [^] Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Siblings #482 in [^] Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

This is perhaps one of the greatest picture books ever written, and is much, much more than a tool for assuaging sibling rivalry in two girl families. With a perfect ear for read-aloud prose, and a finely balanced sense of the perspective of a child, Zolotow invites the youngest listeners to savor the pleasures of literature. We are introduced to big sister at the outset, who always takes care of little sister. But the heart of the story lies in little sister's small act of rebellion on a day when she grows tired of big sister always telling her what to do. Although the story is nominally about a little sister learning from her older sister such that "the two of them can take care of each other", it is the heart of the story that moves this tale out of the usual wretched and formulaic child's self-help lesson and into the realm of true literature. For not only does little sister run away from big sister, but when big sister comes calling for her in the meadow, little sister doesn't respond at all. Not only that, but we get a full two pages of little sister's quiet, existential reflections on the nature of being alone and in

pondering what she has just done. This is the true heart of the story. How can a reader/listener not respond to the willfulness of little sister's unkindness, and yet fully understand the joys of being alone and feeling the grass under your knees while bumblebees buzz overhead? It is in identifying with these conflicting and ambiguous feelings that the young reader feels, perhaps for the first time, a frisson of bittersweet pleasure that will hook them on the joys of reading good books for life. Of course little sister finally relents after she sees big sister break down and cry, but thankfully Zolotow doesn't give an adult resolution to the story. The answer to big sister's reproach, "Why did you run away?" is immaterial, and lemonade is the order of the day.

This is such a realistic story, and sweet as well. We have two sisters. The older one, like older sisters everywhere, is very protective of her younger sister. She doesn't jump rope, or go to school, or sew a button without making sure her sister is safe. And her sister lets her, until one day she's tired of having cookies and lemonade managed for her, and tired of being told how to do things and when. So she leaves. She leaves her house, and her block, and goes right to an empty field where she lies down and thinks about things for a while. And when her worried big sister comes out the door, the little one stays still and doesn't answer, and doesn't answer, until her older sister sits right down and cries. At this point the little sister does just the right thing, which she's learned from her older sister. And as they go home, we're told that they now protected each other, and I cry. It's just a very sweet story, one I really recommend for any sister.

About 25 years ago, this was a book that my mother would read to my older sister and me who are a year apart in age. I can remember being reduced to tears at the mere thought of being separated from my big sister. Now, my big sister has three daughters of her own, and I am on a quest to pass along this book which meant so much in the eyes of a little sister so many years ago. This is truly a timeless book for sisters!

I have 2 daughters and found this book while searching for a new story about sisters. The reviews were so good, and the pictures I could see so sweet that I ordered it. When it arrived I read it to myself and indeed my eyes did smart towards the end. But instead of thinking about my daughters I found myself thinking of myself and my 2 older sisters. I related perfectly to the conflicting feelings of the little sister, and to the conclusion in which love for her big sister won out, but she still kept her afternoon alone to herself, something that's hers alone. I adore the illustrations and feel the story is perfectly told for about 3-7 year olds - just enough repetition for new readers, too. I'm impressed

with the way it addresses the topic of conflict between sisters, without making anyone the bad guy, or without being obnoxious or shallow. My daughters are still a little too young for this book but I expect it will become a classic in our family. My highest compliments to this author.

I purchased this book on without reading it because I had a hunch that it was good. I bought it for my sister who is going through a difficult time (she's the big sister and I'm the little sister). I gave it to her on Christmas morning and she cried when I read it to her. It's just a wonderful message about how sisters can take care of one another. The big sister always took care of the little sister, but when the big sister needed to be taken care of, the little sister realized that she could be there for the big sister, too. I just love this story and highly recommend it to those big and little sisters out there!

After reading this, I knew we had to own it. Big sister is always helping little sister, and without realizing it, teaching her what it means to be a sister. One day little sister decides she needs some time away, so she goes off to find a quiet spot. When big sister comes looking and can't find her sister, she breaks down crying and little sister comes out to comfort her. Charlotte Zolotow's simple story is a beautiful reminder of what it means to be a sister. I also highly recommend "Big Brother."

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