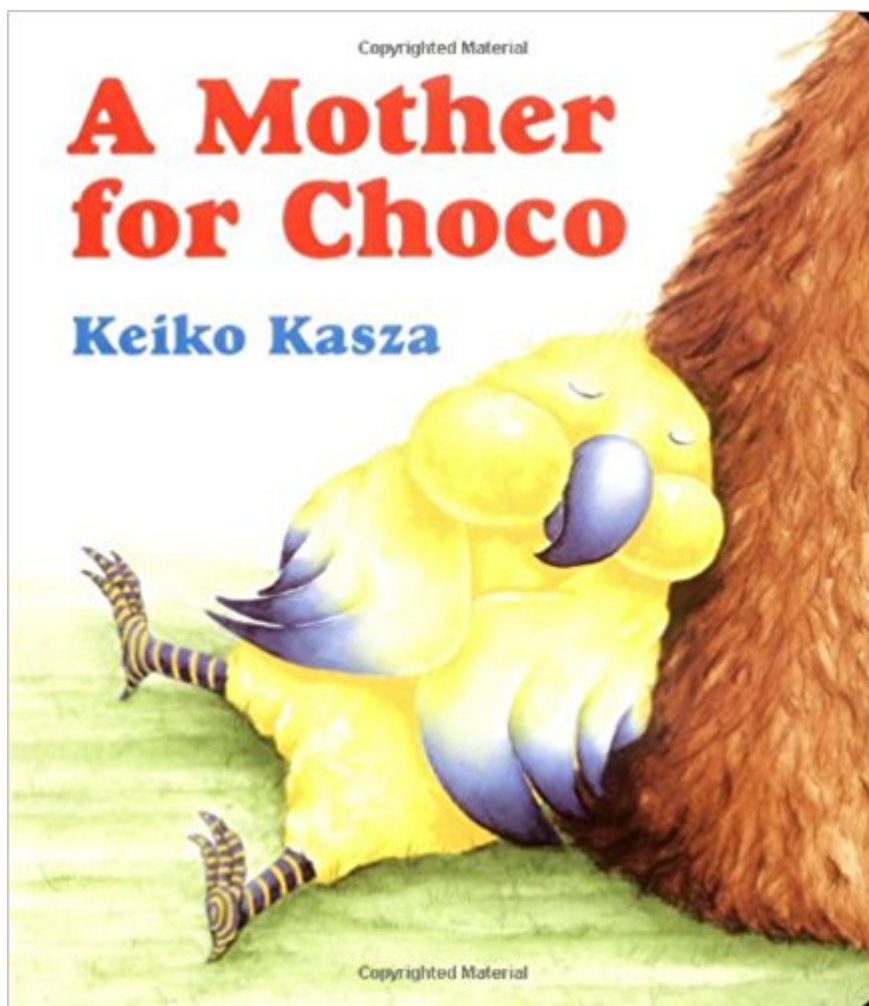




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A Mother For Choco



Synopsis

Family is about love no matter how different parents and children may be, adopted or not. Choco wishes he had a mother, but who could she be? He sets off to find her, asking all kinds of animals, but he doesn't meet anyone who looks just like him. He doesn't even think of asking Mrs. Bear if she's his mother-but then she starts to do just the things a mommy might do. And when she brings him home, he meets her other children-a piglet, a hippo, and an alligator-and learns that families can come in all shapes and sizes and still fit together. Keiko Kasza's twist on the "Are you my mother?" theme has become one of the most highly recommended stories about adoption for children.

Book Information

Age Range: 1 - 3 years

Lexile Measure: 0390 (What's this?)

Board book: 30 pages

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers; Brdbk edition (September 29, 2003)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.9 x 5.8 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 234 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #281,444 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #124 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Adoption #820 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents #10512 in Books > Children's Books > Animals

Customer Reviews

PreSchool-K --Fans of Kasza's previous picture books will welcome this latest effort. Cheerful, energetic illustrations decorate the simple but charming tale of a youngster's search for a loving parent. A chubby-faced yellow bird with blue-striped feet, Choco believes that physical similarity is a prerequisite for family relationships. He asks a series of animals who bear even the slightest resemblance to him if they might be his mother, but all turn him away. Discouraged by their rejection, Choco is pleasantly surprised when Mrs. Bear takes an interest in him, plays with and cuddles him, and ultimately offers him a home. The presence of other "adoptees" is made obvious

as a young alligator, hippopotamus, and pig welcome Choco into his new family. The endearing watercolor paintings are bold and bright enough to appeal to the very youngest listeners, and there is a wealth of character and personality evident in the animals' expressions. These pictures, along with the minimal, repetitive text, make this an excellent choice for storytime use. The emphasis on caring and sharing despite superficial differences will surely find a wide audience. A multicultural message may also be read into this satisfying story with appealing illustrations and a very happy ending. --Lisa Dennis, The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The talented creator of *The Wolf's Chicken Stew* (1987 ALA Notable) provides a warmhearted contemporary surprise ending for the time-honored formula of a little creature searching the animal kingdom for its appropriate mother. Choco, a small yellow bird with a big blue bill, tries a giraffe (she has no wings, she says), a penguin (no "big round cheeks"), and a walrus, but no one seems to look just like him. Comfortable Mrs. Bear is wiser: "If you had a mommy, what would she do?" And since she's quite able to hold him and kiss him, regardless of appearances, he's soon the new member of her happy family--joining the little pig, hippo, and alligator already in her affectionate brood. The timely point is hardly subtle, but it's made with notable good humor, especially in Kasza's marvelous animal caricatures of comically human states of mind. Just right for the preschool group or beginning reader. (Picture book. 3-7) -- Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

LOVE....LOVE....LOVE this book!!!! This is the BEST book ever to help introduce young children to the topic of adoption. I adopted my son when he was just 12 months old and I wanted he to become familiar with what adoption was and understand that being adopted was a GREAT!!!! I want to always have an open and honest relationship with my son. I want him to be able to come to me and ask ANY questions he has about his adoption. It is very important to me that my son ask me about adoption and all the particular in's and out's of his adoption. All adoptions are unique and I wanted my son to grab his story and feel good about his past as well as his future!!! HIGHLY recommended to anyone who is blessed to have adopted a child!!! Five Stars!!!

This is one of our favorite adoption books - and I have used it in therapy with adults who have had less than positive experiences in their (biological) family of origin as well. My son says he likes that it says that your mom does not have to be just like you. The story works wonderfully for a family with a

single mother. It also emphasizes the gentle, nurturing role of the mother. This one is an all time favorite and I know we aren't the only ones who think so.

I love this book, it is one of a couple books I bought to read to my son, who is adopted, to help normalize the idea to him that it's ok to have members of the family looking very different, that what matters most is the love that's there. I found that especially meaningful because it was important to me that he start to feel that in a non-racially charged way, because the day we adopted him, our family became bi-racial, and while I know there will be people who have opinions on that and will share that with him, and may even share that with us, to me, none of that has ever mattered. The day he was placed in my arms and every day since all I have ever felt for him is the deepest of loves, and I love that this book provides a foundation for giving voice to that kind of acceptance.

Love the story. The name is awkward however. As it's kind of a classic, guess that isn't going to change. It does distract a little from the story I notice both kids and adults. I finally just changed it as she can't read yet anyway. Positive story on adoption and/or blended families.

A really cute story! My 3 y.o. loved having it read to him. Highly recommended, but wish it was also offered in hardcover. Hope the paperback holds up. I think we will be reading this a lot!

We wanted to teach our Korean born son very early about the nature of adopted families. We wished to impress on him from the start that families are people who live together and love each other, not just those who look like each other. There are very, very few toddler friendly books on the topic of inter-racial adoption, and this one is simply excellent. It uses simple language and cute pictures that any young child will enjoy. (It's also a great book to give your children's friends as gifts to help them understand why their buddy looks different.) After three years with this book, I still can't read it out loud to my son without crying at the end! If you're still looking for another book, I also highly suggest "Horace".

We listened to a panel of 7 teenage young ladies who had been adopted from Asia as babies, and one of the young ladies noted that this book was one of two favorite childhood books that she related to positively through the years, that helped her define her family in a great way. I love both the artwork and the storyline in this book. My own Asian daughter is noticing that she looks different from the rest of our family, and after she read this book once, she continued to select it from a group

of 20 library books. So, I bought it!

I joined my family in 1996, the same year this book was published. I can speak from 20 years of loving and having this book that it is a very special story to carry with me forever. The portrayal of an "unconventional" family is phenomenal for young readers, but what I love best about Choco are the memories of my mother reading to me. Even if you do not have adopted children, it is a lovely little story that teaches love and diversity.

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