



# The Night You Were Born

By Wendy McCormick

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## **The Night You Were Born By Wendy McCormick Bibliography**

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- Dimensions: 10.72" h x .50" w x 9.72" l, 1.03 pounds
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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Soft pastels that glow with soothing tones set the stage for this reassuring tale of a boy who, together with his aunt, awaits the arrival of his new sibling. "Will Mommy and Daddy remember me... waiting here all night long?" Jamie asks. His aunt promises him that they will. After tucking him into bed, she relates how she waited for his arrival, and when his mother calls with news of a baby sister, the two celebrate with a song, just as Jamie's aunt and uncle did on the day he arrived. McCormick (*Daddy, Will You Miss Me?*) conveys the fond interaction between nephew and aunt, and offers descriptions that evoke safety and security (e.g., the aunt and uncle, as they traveled to await Jamie's birth, drove through fog as "thick as a nest of furry rabbits"). Williams (*When Grandma Came*), too, underscores this mood: on the half-title page, the boy pushes his red toy car across the green sweater covering his mother's full belly, and on the title page, his parents drive from inside their red car on a hilltop down to Jamie and his aunt; thus the artist visually establishes a connection between the boy and his absent parents. Altogether comforting, this picture book is a strong choice for sharing with any child whose family is expecting a new addition. Ages 3-7. (Oct.)

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From School Library Journal

PreSchool-K-As Jamie waits at home for his sister to be born, Aunt Isabel tells of the joyful time she waited for his birth. When they got the news, she and her husband danced for joy and sang a song of welcome. When Jamie receives the phone call with his happy news, the song of welcome is repeated and his seashell night-light shines for the new baby. Several subthemes are extended throughout the text: the question of when the baby will come, the comfort that family and pets bring, and the establishing of a welcoming ritual. Light is used as a dominant element with mixed success. Though it adds interest and depth to the tale, when the doorway is lit "to light the way for this new baby," the infant hasn't even been born yet. Still, the pastel illustrations are alive and satisfying. The density of color and richness of hue complement the text. There is great movement and energy in the seaside scenes while the predominance of orange and red in the home environment creates a sense of warmth and safety. Both the art and text achieve moments of poetic truth. A satisfying perspective on the anxious excitement generated while waiting for the birth of a child.

*Martha Topol, Traverse Area District Library, Traverse City, MI*

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From [Booklist](#)

Ages 4-7. A young boy, Jamie, anxiously waits for his parents to call from the hospital telling him his new baby sister has been born. Aunt Isabel waits with him, but she has been through this before: "I waited for you, too, you know." Soon Aunt Isabel is telling Jamie all about the night that he was born--about driving a long way on "the foggiest morning we'd ever seen," stopping to call the hospital (twice), and then, finally, celebrating when he arrived. Williams' realistic pastel pictures are beautifully rendered with soft edges and brilliant, intense hues. Many spreads have a warm, light-filled quality that visually conveys a theme expressed by Aunt Isabel when she tells Jamie, "We have to light the way for this new baby." Jamie's anxieties and insecurities will have special meaning to children who are older siblings, but the story-within-a-story depicts a universal experience that all children can relate to. *Lauren Peterson*

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**From reader reviews:**

**Alicia Hendrickson:**

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**Michael Davis:**

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