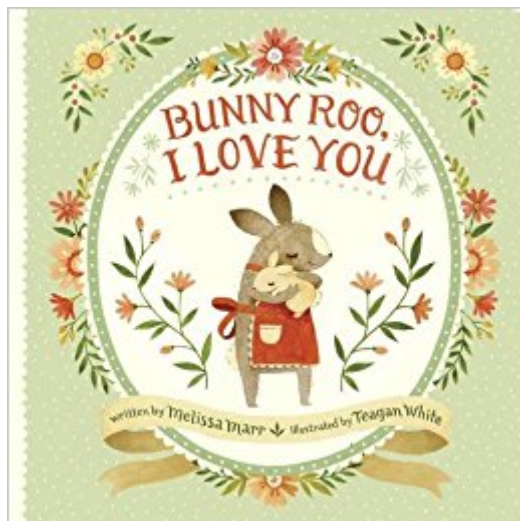


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# Bunny Roo, I Love You



## Synopsis

A warm and tender welcome to the world! In a gorgeous picture book that's playfully sweet and visually captivating, New York Times bestselling author Melissa Marr and talented new illustrator Teagan White celebrate the many ways parents make their new babies feel at home. The world can seem like a big, bewildering place for new babies, but fortunately, their mamas know just how to soothe and comfort them. Through enchanting scenes portraying all kinds of mama animals looking out for their little ones, the mother in this story reassures her baby, and young children everywhere, that their caretakers will always love them and keep them safe. This beautiful picture book has the feel of a classic and its heartwarming premise should make it a family favorite. "A lovely package." Kirkus Reviews "Vintage-looking, pastoral prettiness." Publishers Weekly From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

Board book: 32 pages

Publisher: Nancy Paulsen Books; Brdbk edition (January 10, 2017)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 6.9 x 0.7 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 38 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #65,767 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #60 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Baby Animals #112 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Baby #311 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences

Grade Level: Preschool and up

## Customer Reviews

**Baby-Toddler** • A sweet but less-than-successful parental love letter. Despite the title, a bunny only briefly appears. The narration begins "When I met you, you were small and trembling, and I thought you might be a little bunny," while the illustrations present a lone bunny quivering amongst bright foliage. On the next spread, a mother rabbit in an apron cuddles the bunny as the text explains, "I held you close so you were warm." On the following pages, readers are told how the little one behaves like a lost kangaroo, a curious lizard, and a thirsty kitten, each iteration

necessitating some measure of comfort from an animal mother. The flow from one creature to another often feels abrupt, and some of the mother's actions may leave readers puzzled. For example, after "you" howled like a lonely wolf, the mother wolf "ran to [her] house and made you a cozy den so you had a home," a phrase that implies some separation yet feels out of place after pages of mother and child togetherness. In the end, the "you" is revealed to be the mother's human baby, but the lack of repetition and rhythm in the text and the complex comparisons lift this title well above the interest level of most babies and toddlers. White's hand-lettered text and delicate watercolor and gouache illustrations shine in spite of the narrative flaws, with a palette of earth tones against plenty of white space clearly differentiating each comparison. VERDICT Beautiful illustrations are the draw here. Unfortunately, the undistinguished text fails to find its audience. *—Chelsea Couillard-Smith, Sacramento Public Library, CA* --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Young children love to pretend they're baby animals—it's an opportunity to explore the world in new ways, while ensuring their nurturers remain close at hand. In novelist Marr's (the *Wicked Lovely* series) first picture book, a mother plays along, imagining her baby and herself as six different animals as she lovingly tracks its development. "Then you whimpered and meowed, and I thought you might be a thirsty kitten," she says. "I offered you some milk so you would not be hungry." White's (Adventures with Barefoot Critters) restrained detailing, smudged colors, and frequent use of circular framings give her watercolors a vintage-looking, pastoral prettiness. It's also fun to see how the mother retains her essential momness regardless of what species she assumes: as a lizard, she wears green pearls and carries an over-the-shoulder bag. With its emphasis on motherly pacifying, this warmhearted story is best suited for younger readers who are still happy to consent to all the tender doting that their caretakers are willing to dish out. *—Publishers Weekly* "A mother's observations of her new baby lead to a series of sweet comparisons to various animals. "When I met you, you were small and trembling, and I thought you might be a little bunny. / I held you close so you were warm." Teen author Marr (*Made for You*, 2014, etc.) uses playful yet comforting language in her picture-book debut. The baby's squirming kicks remind her of a lost kangaroo; a lifting of the child's head makes her think of a curious lizard; and the little one's howl seems like that of a lonely wolf. Each of the child's behaviors leads to a tender action taken by the mother:

tucking the baby in, offering milk, and giving a bath. Each time a new creature is introduced, White gently changes the dominant color in the muted pastel palette of her watercolor and gouache illustrations. That hue is also reflected in the hand-lettered text, giving the overall design of the book a vintage feel. When the baby smiles, the mother knows "You are not a bunny-roo-lizard-wolf-kitten-piggy. You are my baby." The final page shows the curled-up infant asleep in a pile of blankets. A lovely package, this quiet title will be best as a gift book for new moms eager to read aloud to the newest members of their families.

•Kirkus Reviews

"Using examples from nature in which animals care for their young, a human mother describes how she cares for her own baby. She cites bunnies, who are held close; joeys, who are carried in mom's pouch; lizards, who enjoy a patch of warm sun; wolves, who snuggle cozily in a den; kittens, who drink milk; and piggies, who calm down after a bath. When her own baby smiles, Mom replies, "You are not a bunny-roo-lizard-wolf-kitten-piggy. You are my baby." Marr's soothing text ("When I met you, you were small and trembling, and I thought you might be a little bunny. I held you close so you were warm") should prove calming for lap-sitting infants just beginning to focus on illustrations. White's watercolor and gouache artwork exhibits a cozy feel, with realistically drawn animals posed against simple, recognizable settings. This makes a good choice for one-on-one sharing or as a baby story-hour selection paired with Mary Murphy's *I Kissed the Baby!* (2003).

•Booklist

This has to be one of the cutest books I have ever read for babies and parents. I read it in the bookstore and instantly teared up. I particularly like that it references all of the "annoying" and jarring things babies do (rooting, crying, etc), as animal behaviors, and offers things that the mommy did to help solve the baby's problems. I think this book would be especially great to read to older children when they are about to become big brothers or sisters. It can remind them that they did these "annoying" behaviors too and place the baby's actions in context for them, as something all animals do, and as actions that mommies and families need to help soothe. The illustrations are exceptionally cute, too. I've ended up purchasing three more copies to give as presents to my new parent friends, all of whom had the same teary reaction I had. Love!

Purchased this book as a present for a newborn. A very sweet story about parents' enduring love, and the caring things they do to comfort their little one when timid, hungry, tired, etc. The pages are beautifully illustrated and visually enchanting - there are brightly colored pictures and brush lettered

text

so adorable

I got this book for my daughter around Easter. The story and illustrations are wonderful. I bought this copy for a friend's baby shower and she thought it was so cute. I definitely recommend it.

Like the book, I will keep this short and sweet: this book melts my heart.

Adorable!

Lovely simple story that teaches small children about animals and about caring relationships. I bought as an Easter gift for my toddler, but it would be a great gift year round. Great illustrations.

great book!

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