



Glitterby Baby

Stephen Cosgrove , Robin James (Illustrator)

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In the magical, mystical land of Serendipity, Glitterby is Flutterby's only child, but her wings are too small and she cannot fly. Will they grow enough for Glitterby to join her mother in Wingsong? Full-color illustrations.

Glitterby Baby Details

Date : Published December 31st 2001 by Price Stern Sloan (first published 1984)

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Author : Stephen Cosgrove , Robin James (Illustrator)

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Phoenix says

sweet book. She read it like twice.

Josiah says

Okay, for one thing: Stephen Cosgrove comes up with the best names for his characters this side of Jerry Spinelli and James Howe!

Wow. I was really impressed by just how good "Glitterby Baby" is. This just might be the best of all the Serendipity books I have read. Stephen Cosgrove really is an expert at making one deeply feel through the characters, while using a bare minimum of text.

The story that is "Glitterby Baby" is genuinely moving and emotionally resonant, something that I honestly did not expect from such a slim volume. The heartrending decision-making by Flutterby and her foal Glitterby really wraps itself around the reader's mind in full force. With each of his books that I have read, my respect for Stephen Cosgrove as a writer has been favorably augmented. I would give this book my full and earnest recommendation.

Lindsey says

One of the Flutterby stories in the Serendipity series. This time, Flutterby falls in love with a regular horse and has a baby (Glitterby). But Flutterby must return to her homeland (I'm having trouble recalling exactly why... maybe so she can still fly?). Because the baby's wings are small, Flutterby thinks she won't be able to fly when her mother must return home. It's a story with a happy ending... sort of.

In retrospect, it really bothers me that this story is all about the mom. Of course she wants to be with her child, but isn't the dad sad, too? I remember some throw-away line to that effect but the focus just isn't there. (I could also question why they had a baby when they knew Flutterby couldn't stay but that may be going too far for a kids' book.)

Nonetheless, this is not one that I would recommend for younger children... the idea of being torn apart from family is scary and traumatic for many kids. However, for older children, this story might be a good way to discuss why families have to make difficult choices sometimes.

Edit: New thought: It might also be a good story for opening a discussion with younger children about deployments.

Kate says

As a kid I loved this story about a regular horse and a Pegasus falling in love and having a baby.

Amy says

This is a quick review of Glitterby Baby a children's book that was part of the Serendipity series of books that were first published in the late 70's and early 80's. I gave it 5 out of 5 stars.

Was so happy to rediscover this book from my childhood. The pictures and the story have both stayed with me.

The art in this is absolutely gorgeous first rate and stunning. The story is simple and sad and rather surprisingly grown up for being a children's picture book story. I would highly recommend this story to anyone with slightly older children though it would work fine for young children as well I would suggest reading it first to see if you feel it's suitable. It's only 32 pages and half of those are illustrations so it makes for a very quick read.

Dee says

This book is thought-provoking, but inspiring for young minds.

Lisa says

Ah, a delightful book from my childhood that I get to read to my own kids. I don't remember feeling profoundly sad reading this as a kid, but as an adult I was crying my way through the last few pages while reading it aloud. I love the art, it totally took me back to my horse-obsessed youth.

Julia says

This is a beautiful story that explains the message: Sometimes Love Forces Us to Make Difficult Choices.

All in all I think this is one of the hardest Serendipity series books since the story is so hard to swallow. A young winged horse that has been introduced in some other Serendipity stories (if they are about the same character) leaves her home and finds herself with a herd of actual horses. And there she falls in love and ends up with foal.

As a result the young winged horse is told by a mare she won't be able to fly until she has her foal and then she will die if she stays. As if bad news wasn't bad news enough she is told that she may or may not be able to keep her foal since of its double heritage - mortal and magical.

What I don't like is the fact that the mother ends up worrying herself and focusing on just the baby being able to go with her or not. There is also no mention much of the father nor of his feelings once the foal is born.

In my opinion this would be the type of story where the mother would want to stay with her meadow mate and foal then when perhaps he die she would try to make it home. Or that maybe, just maybe, she would allow her love to ground her but again we aren't told all the details of the information that the old gray mare is wise about.

Beautiful book with a surprise end for the foal Glitterby Baby....

Pam says

this one totally made me cry. I'm not sure I would want my kid to read it, it seems a heartbreaking story...

the morale on the front of the book is:
Sometimes love forces us to make difficult choices.
