



If I Weren't with You

Rosie J. Pova , Philip Martineau (Illustrations)

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-Mama, if I weren't born, what would you do?- Willy starts a conversation with mama Bear while he's on the move, acting like a natural youngster. In a series of simple and direct questions, the bear cub seeks and receives his mother's reassurance of love and security as the two take a walk in the forest. Mama Bear uses imagery of the forest to communicate her feelings to her cub.

If I Weren't with You Details

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Author : Rosie J. Pova , Philip Martineau (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review If I Weren't with You for online ebook

Jolene Gutiérrez says

This gorgeous book is actually a tear-jerker for me--just the title is enough to make me cry--because it's such a testament to the love a mother has for her child. The book is also filled with lovely, colorful illustrations and rich, poetic language. And throughout, Mama Bear reassures Baby that he is her everything and that her life wouldn't be the same without him. This would make a wonderful baby or Mother's Day gift.

K Scott says

Awesome book with heartwarming message.

Gayle Krause says

Rosie Pova's poetic forest imagery demonstrates her creativity as Willy, the bear cub, questions his Mama about her undying love. He questions what she would do if he could not be with her. She assures him that no matter what might happen, her love is fierce and she would do anything to find him and protect him. A warm, touching story of a mother's love, If I Weren't With You will reassure even the youngest reader that his or her Mama Bear will always love them. As a former Pre-K director, I recommend Pova's story as both a bedtime reading and a classroom tool.

Gayle C. Krause
Author – Twice Betrayed

Julie Pepper says

What a sweet, loving story. I really enjoyed the imagery and similes throughout. I was drawn in on the very first page with the phrase: "a kaleidoscope of butterflies." Beautiful! My kids loved all the things Mama Bear said would do when Willy asked his "what ifs."

Marcia says

I enjoyed If I Weren't with You. This reassuring story is perfect for bedtime or story time. It's hard for young ones to picture their parents as anyone BUT their parents which leads Willie to question his mother's love as they stroll through the forest. Her reaffirming answers bring comfort while beautiful illustrations add to the magic.

Joanna Rowland says

Very sweet story about the love of a mommy bear for her cub.

Kirsti Call says

This is a beautiful tribute to motherhood and the love between a mother and child. It's reminiscent of *Mama, Do You Love Me?* by Barbara Joosse, Barbara Lavallee which was one of my kids' favorite books.

Rosie J. Pova uses lovely lyrical language with sentences like: "Willy scurried after a kaleidoscope of butterflies" and "And when we're together, even if we walk down a path in the cold morning rain, I would look at your smile and a rainbow would appear."

The sweet story, combined with engaging illustrations makes for the kind of book you'll want to treasure.

Cathy Ogren says

If you're looking for a delightful book to cuddle up with your youngster and read, I have one for you. *IF I WEREN'T WITH YOU* is written by Rosie J. Pova and illustrated by Philip Martineau. It's a gentle story of a Mama Bear and her love for her inquisitive Bear Cub. On their walk through the forest, Bear Cub wants to know what Mama Bear would do if he had never been born, if he got lost, if a hunter took him, or if they got caught in a thunderstorm. After each question, Mama Bear reassures Bear Cub that she will always be there for him. Philip Martineau's colorful illustrations depict the two bears in natural surroundings, and Rosie Pova's lyrical text conveys the unique bond between mother and child. The combination of words and pictures offers a wonderful opportunity to snuggle up together and read.

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Raven Howell says

Another great book by Rosie Pova! I love the illustrations.

Melissa Stoller says

With beautiful illustrations and lyrical language, *IF I WEREN'T WITH YOU* grabs the reader by the heart and doesn't let go. The author isn't afraid to tackle the tough questions a baby bear asks his mama bear, but she leaves the reader with a tender embrace between the two that is hopeful and endearing.

Jenna Grodzicki says

If I Weren't With You is a beautifully written book. The questions Willy asks his mother are ones that many children may have. The poetic language of Mama Bear's responses leaves no doubt as to how much she loves him. Reading this with my children was a wonderful experience, as I was able to use Rosie's heartfelt words to validate my love for them. Philip Martineau's illustrations are engaging and complement the text perfectly. This book is one that every parent should read to their children!

Tonya Calvert says

In this beautifully illustrated book, you'll meet Willy, a little bear. Through a series of questions, Willy learns just how deep is Mama's love for him. This precious story would make a wonderful Mother's Day gift.

Shelley Kinder says

I own the soft cover of this book. It has a very nice gloss to it, with a tiny bit of texture that works really well. As for the story, it's so sweet and lovely. It's a message that all kids need to hear!

Anitra says

If your family is anything like mine, you have WORN OUT your copies of "Guess How Much I Love You" and "God Gave Us You."

Ready for a picture book reboot?

Enter If I Weren't With You - a title reminiscent of these new-ish classics, but with a deeper focus: Quelling our children's biggest worries and most persistent fears.

The story opens with a little bear named Willy playing in the woods, while his mom stands nearby. As the two bears walk among butterflies, and through hills and trees, Willy begins asking his mom some very serious questions:

What if I got lost in the woods?

What if a hunter took me?

Would you give up and forget me?

Willy's questions all have the same angle. What he seeks - what every child seeks - is certitude of his mother's devotion and protection. To Willy, safety and security can be understood, so long as he knows that his mom would do anything for him... and stop at nothing to save him.

Through vivid nature-driven examples and illustrations, Mama Bear assures Willy: Her love for him is constant and endless.

As a parent, I gotta tell ya...

Merely thinking of my kids being taken away from me is enough to give me a panic attack. Our children aren't immune to this. They live in the same world that we do. They see the nightly news and hear stories of loss and death.

Kids know - if only abstractly, or through the lens of cartoon characters - that there are bad forces out there, just out of view. Things that have the power to separate them from what they know and love. From us.

To provide stability in the face of Willy's uncertainty, Mama Bear offers unwavering assurances that she will never give up on her son and never forget him.

Once Willy gets his pressing questions answered, he is grounded by simply hearing the words "I love you" from Mama Bear. With that, mom and cub resume the physical and emotional closeness that gives both of them such fulfillment.

It's a pitch-perfect ending to a book that both confronts and comforts - and all on a child's level.

Vernita Naylor says

Our childhood sets the stage for us into adulthood. *If I Weren't With You* by Rosie Pova is a beautiful children's story about what life would be like without the love and protection between a child and his mother. Walk through the forest while Mama and Baby Bear share elements of love and bonding, as Baby Bear inquires as to what would his mother do if he wasn't around? You can tell that the questions Baby Bear asks display a feeling of-of uncertainty and the lack of security, but the answers that Mama Bear provides give Baby Bear the reassurance that his mother loves him unconditionally. If you read this book with your child, you will feel the love and comfort that can set the stage for a lasting and bonding connection between you and your child.

Author Rosie Pova is a mother who sees herself as a Mama Bear to her own three children. This story provides such a solid and beautiful example of how important the bond is between a parent and child. Children need to feel secure and to know that they have someone that they can depend and count upon. Rosie Pova does a great job in telling the story, along with the beautiful and colorful illustrations by Philip Martineau. This collaboration helps to set the stage for how, as a parent, listening intently to your child and giving them the assurance that you love and care about them is important to their development, comfort, and growth. I am sure that this book will become one of your child's favorite stories. *If I Weren't with You*
