



Julius, the Baby of the World

Kevin Henkes

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For children who are facing the arrival of a new sibling, *Julius, the Baby of the World* makes for great bibliotherapy. At first, big sister Lilly thought it might be fun to have a new baby in the family. But when her parents repeatedly coo, "Julius is the baby of world," Lilly's mouse hackles begin to rise. Soon the jealousy is too much for her, and she embarks on a rejection campaign that is hysterically funny, but also comforting for siblings who probably feel just as much resentment but would never go to Lilly's extremes. Kevin Henkes, creator of *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* refuses to shy away from the truly powerful and sometimes dark feelings of children. Through bright watercolors and handwritten, cartoon-style dialogue, Henkes relishes Lilly's wickedness. For example, she delights in insulting her oblivious baby brother: "If you were a food, you'd be a raisin," she whispers into his crib. "If you were a number you'd be zero." When she paints an elaborate family portrait, she leaves Julius out. When she throws a tea party, guess which baby doesn't get an invitation? But when a visiting cousin starts insulting baby Julius, we discover that the flip side of Lilly's intense jealousy is an even more powerful and lasting loyalty. ALA Notable Book, ALA Booklist Children's Editors' Choice, Horn Book Fanfare Honor List, Parent's Choice Honor for Literature. (Baby to Preschool) -
-Gail Hudson

Julius, the Baby of the World Details

Date : Published September 21st 1995 by Greenwillow Books (first published September 24th 1990)

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Author : Kevin Henkes

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Adams Eagles says

Diego M.

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Review:

This story is about a girl name Lilly and her little brother Julius. Lilly was so nice to Julius when he was in his mom's stomach. When Julius was born Lilly was rude to Julius because Lilly felt like she was invisible. Lilly parents sang the abc and 123 to Julius and Lilly sang it to him and she said B C A 213. Then one day there parents had a party with the family Lilly's cousin Garland. Said something to julius and she said slimy pink nose his small black eye are beady.

I like how the pictures were drawn. I liked how they title the story. There is nothing i disliked from this story at all. I like the picture because I seen other books like this one. This is a really good book i read.

I would recommend this book because this is a good book i would share it to a friend. There is nothing wrong with this book it is a good book. I also recommend this book to you because this book is fun.

Megan Marvel says

I LOVE the humor in this book! I can totally identify with Lilly: rather stubborn, a little sassy, and very devious. As I read this, I thought, "Huh, the author's sense of humor is just like mine! We could totally be friends." Then I saw that it was Kevin Henkes and now I get it: he's from Madison, WI and I'm from Madison, WI, so we're cut from the same cloth! By the by, he was neighbors with my best friend from high school!

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

This is my favorite of all of Henkes' books. I just love way he depicts Lilly's attitude toward her baby brother, and how it changes toward the end. He must have first-hand knowledge of sibling rivalry! Cute and recommended!

Angelina Cicero says

This book by Kevin Henkes is an adorable sibling book. I really liked this book, the pithy text oozed with wit and subtle charm, and laughs at things the main character Lilly did. Even though it may have been a cute and funny book, if you read this to a child, you would have to explain why Lilly told her new brother Julius horrible stories, and treated him like she did. Young children don't understand that when a baby is born the parents full attention needs to be on the baby at times. In the book, Lilly got jealous and certainly a child would too. This goes into the intended audience. This book is intended for children who are no longer going

to an only child. While reading this to a child try to explain things very clear while reading. Other than that, i loved how it gave the message a siblings love can be found despite all efforts. Even though Lilly made Julius cry, told him terrible stories, and didn't invite him to tea, Lilly realized she loved her brother. When cousin Garland came and said why she didn't like Julius Lilly got angry and made cousin Garland hold, hug, and kiss Julius. From that moment Lilly realized being a big sister is a huge honor and considered Julius "Baby of the World."

The typography is big enough to go along with the pictures on each page. Watercolor and black pen were used for the full color art.(medium) The colors are vibrant and colorful on each page. For example, Lilly has been seen in pink, green, yellow, orange, and red. Each character shows emotion, when Lilly screamed both parents covered their ears with a annoyed expression.

While looking for books for this project, the book cover for this book really stood out to me. The cover is bright yellow with and image of Lilly standing over Julius' crib with a mask on, and toys surrounding the floor. On the back there is just a picture of Julius in purple pajamas. This would be a duel image. It really stuck out to me and is why i chose to read this book. While reading i have noticed there are no pictures in the gutter, and the end papers have images of Lilly on it.

While using this book with children, before reading to my young audience i would ask questions like "which one do you think is Julius?" and " Who is the mouse in the mask?" After reading a page or 2 i would ask "How does Lilly feel about her brother?, How do you know?" i would also ask if there is any words they have never heard of before.

Overall i do think this is a great book, and recommend getting it if your child is about to have a sibling.

Sharon says

Initially, Lily is excited upon hearing of the arrival of her baby brother. However, once her parents repeatedly state that the new baby, Julius, will be the "baby of the world," Lily becomes extremely envious and the tale of humorous sibling rivalry ensues. Lily goes to mouse extremes in terms of her antics when it comes to her hatred and jealousy towards her new baby brother. From warning strangers about the evils of babies to painting evil pictures of her family without Julius and even having "ghastly" nightmares about her brother, Lily was not content about having a new baby brother. When her cousin came over to her house, her cousin called Lily's baby brother, Julius, "disgusting." This is a word that Lily had coined as her own to refer to Julius when her parents spoke of his praise as the baby of the world. Surprisingly much to Lily's dismay, she didn't appreciate the way Julius had been referred to, as in disgusting, by anybody other than herself. Therefore from then on, she defended and treated her baby brother with respect and unconditional love. This heartwarming story which I read in my internship's pre-k classroom appealed to me because as a sibling of my brother, I can recall sharing many of the same petty sentiments which were evoked from Lily's jealousy of her brother. Nonetheless, I now own the book and I love reading it because the humor and connection to my own life were two great aspects of the story I think resonates with not only me but anyone who reads this fantastic story, especially young children!

Lauren says

I didn't like this book at all. I found myself changing the language while I was reading it aloud to my son. I know it's supposed to be cute and funny that Lilly hates her baby brother at first. In the end, she defends him...blah blah blah. I don't have any appreciation for a book that introduces the concept of hating your sibling. I'm spoiled perhaps because my son loves his baby sister and I certainly don't want to give him any ideas that it is cute or funny to "hate" her or talk about hating her. Yes, this book uses "hate" repeatedly. Thumbs down, Henkes.

Julian Zehner says

Kristen says

Julius, the Baby of the World is Lilly's new baby brother, and she thinks he is disgusting. Most children will go through some kind of phase when a new sibling is brought home. This book displays lots of negative criticism to siblings at first, but in the end the older sibling takes a stand to protect her younger brother. This realistic story brings sibling together.

Josiah says

Okay, this is just high-quality stuff right here!

In the same vein as "Owen", Kevin Henkes relates a smart story about Lilly, a girl with her own mind (very much so!) who takes something of a disliking to her baby brother shortly after his birth.

The pithy text absolutely oozes with wit and subtle charm, with big laughs reliably coming at every turn of the page. "Julius, the Baby of the World" represents Kevin Henkes near his picture-book best, and I would enthusiastically recommend this story for anyone who enjoys funny picture books that have a steady mooring in good writing. I would probably give two and a half stars to "Julius, the Baby of the World".

Bekka says

very cute! Loved the illustrations.

Deb Carter says

I love Kevin Henkes' books. The love a sibling can be found despite all efforts. Hopefully this is true of teenagers too.

Kristen Dutkiewicz says

I find myself torn when reviewing this children's book because while I appreciate the ending, there were some unkind words shared for the majority of the book towards the new baby.

I have it three stars, because the ending shows a nice relationship with a younger brother. Just would have appreciated a more sensitive tone and language for younger children.

Mary Ann says

When her new brother arrives, Lilly's parents are smitten, but Lilly is filled with jealousy. "Julius is the

“baby of the world,” chimed Lilly’s parents. ‘Disgusting,’ said Lilly.” Henkes masterfully captures Lilly’s growing frustration and the way she suddenly turns protective when her cousin criticizes Julius. Families are never easy.

Jacoba says

Julius, Baby of the World by Kevin Henkes (1995)

Genre: Picture book

Format: Book

Plot summary: Lilly is convinced that the arrival of her new baby brother is the worst thing that has happened in their house until Cousin Garland comes to visit.

Considerations or precautions for readers advisory (strong language, sex, death, religious overtones, violence, etc.): No special considerations

Review citation (if available): Sutton, Roger Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books , November 1990, Vol. 44, p61-61

Section source used to find the material: ALA Notable Children's Book 1991

Recommended age: Pre-K -2nd grade

Treasaa says

Lily is not pleased when her parents bring home her little brother, Julius, and spend so much time cooing over him. But when Lily's cousin criticizes Julius, Lily's big-sisterly instincts kick in.

I dislike any book that involves an older sibling hating a younger sibling (or any sibling hating any sibling, for that matter). The first time I read this book, I was reading it out loud to a child I was babysitting. I almost stopped reading it because I was so disturbed that Lily says she hates Julius. Of course older siblings are not always thrilled when a new baby comes home, but I still do not like reading books about siblings hating one another. If it's ok (and even supposed to be considered funny) for Lily to hate her little brother, then why can't the child I am reading the book to hate her little brother, too? Sure, Lily grows out of it by the end of the book, but the bulk of the book (and the most memorable part) involves her hating and torturing Julius. I just don't like it.

I like a lot of Henkes's books but really just do not like this one.
