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With the arrival of baby Gloria in the house Frances feels that living with her parents is not as much fun as it used to be, so after dinner she packs her bag and runs away to under the dining room table. But when she overhears her parents talking about how much they all miss her, she decides that she should go back home. After all a being a big sister means she has lots of grown up things to do!

A Baby Sister for Frances Details

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Author : Russell Hoban , Lillian Hoban (Illustrator)

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Becky says

A Baby Sister for Frances. Russell Hoban. Illustrated by Lillian Hoban. 1964/1992. HarperCollins. 32 pages.

First sentence: It was a quiet evening. Father was reading his newspaper. Mother was feeding Gloria, the new baby. Frances was sitting under the kitchen sink. She was singing a little song: Plinketty, plinketty, plinketty, plink, Here is the dishrag that's under the sink. Here are the buckets and brushes and me, Plinketty, plinketty, plinketty, plee. She stopped the song and listened. Nobody said anything.

Premise/plot: Frances is having a hard time adjusting to her new baby sister, Gloria. She's still Frances, an imaginative badger that loves to make up her own songs, but she's finding it harder and harder to be noticed by her busy parents. And her parents don't have as much time to devote to keeping things in the house flowing smoothly. Frances decides it may be best to run away.

After dinner that evening Frances packed her little knapsack very carefully. She put in her tiny special blanket and her alligator doll. She took all of the nickels and pennies out of her bank, for travel money, and she took her good luck coin for good luck. Then she took a box of prunes from the kitchen and five chocolate sandwich cookies.

"Well," said Frances, "it is time to say goodbye. I am on my way. Good bye."

"Where are you running away to?" said Father.

"I think that under the dining-room table is the best place," said Frances. "It's cozy and the kitchen is near if I run out of cookies."

"That is a good place to run away to," said Mother, "but I'll miss you."

"I'll miss you too," said Father.

"Well, said Frances, "good-bye," and she ran away. (12-13)

My thoughts: Essentially this one is like Noisy Nora, but, I think I like this one better because I like Frances so much. I enjoy this one. It's not my favorite Frances story--in fact, it's probably my least favorite--but that has more to do with the others being so great, so memorable.

Text: 4 out of 5

Illustrations: 4 out of 5

Total: 8 out of 10

Briana Grenert says

Heartwarming <3

Kathryn says

I have always loved the Frances books! This one is such a sweet and thoughtful look at how the older sibling

might feel about a new baby.

Drew Graham says

Frances doesn't much care for the way things are going now that baby sister Gloria is around, so she decides it's a good idea to run away (but not very far). Will her parents be able to convince her that she's an important member of the family?

Frances books are always sweet and kind of funny but also pretty wordy and I always feel like there's a lot of extraneous stuff in there too. It's easy enough to trim for bedtime reading but I feel like a little editing would have been a good idea. I also expected this to be more about Frances and her sister, like preparation for and actually interacting with a new baby but Gloria doesn't really play much of a role. Anyway, it's fun to read aloud and Frances always has plenty of innocence and charm.

David Cousins says

This book is about the struggles of being an older sibling. A young girl has recently become a big sister and is upset about the amount of attention she is receiving from her parents. She assumes that striking out on her own is the best option and shirks any responsibility to her family. While “away” from her family she begins to realize that she does have great responsibility as an older sister and more importantly as a daughter.

I recommend this fiction book for early elementary school students.

I would read this book to a class as a beginning to a unit on family roles or responsibility. This would be a great way to broach the subject of what it takes to be an older sibling or part of a growing family.

The Wow moment I got from this book is that even if you are upset about circumstances, we are still to be held responsible for our actions and jobs.

Charlotte Stevens says

This is a lovely book about a young badger called Frances who becomes jealous of the attention her parents are giving her new baby sister that she decides to run away. Frances packs up some belongings in a small backpack, takes some food supplies and sets off under the dining table. While she is here her parents talk about how they will miss Frances, and how her baby sister will be lost without her big sister in her life. All the while Frances is overhearing and she realises she should return home as the baby needs her big sister.

She goes back to her parents with a new sense of importance and a new viewpoint upon having a baby sister.

I really liked this story as it was a very heartwarming look into family life. It is very comical, particularly when Frances asks what time dinner is, and decides she has enough time to run away after she has eaten. The use of animal characters make it more enjoyable for children. The fact they are portrayed as humans, knitting, reading the newspaper, living in a house, gives the children something to relate to. The book deals with the egocentric which is the phase many children reading this will be at, the view that the world revolves around them. By reading this story it could help show children that there are more ways at looking at a situation and it is not all about me. It contains some lovely illustrations throughout which would help children to follow, enhancing their reading skills if using for independent reading, making it the perfect book for children ages 4 - 7. I feel it could also be used in the classroom with the teacher highlighting the comical elements using voice and tone to help engage the children more.

Guilherme Semionato says

Man, I'm so glad the Frances books exist. This is absolutely, absolutely sublime. Second only to A BARGAIN FOR FRANCES, which is a big masterpiece.

Sarah says

Frances' parents play along to let Frances know she is still loved and wanted even when parents are busy with a new baby.

Kristine Hansen says

Oddly enough I had never discovered this Frances book before, so it was a delight to come across this particular story at the library.

Here Frances is having a tough time adjusting to a new baby in the house. Again, her reactions are absolutely real and perfectly portrayed. I like that she ran away from home under the dining room table (I ran away there once as a child. It was a nice place to live). I like how her parents reacted, and how they even sang the songs she made up, showing that they paid just that kind of careful attention to her, and the things important to her. Nowhere are her feelings negated, nor is she belittled or laughed at. And in the end, she comes home because she's the one that chooses to, as it should be.

This is storytelling that is extremely honest and poignant and beautiful. Again, Russell Hoban has captured life so perfectly, in a story that has again, held up through the ages. Lovely!

Laura says

A charming story about a sassy little badger who decides that since her baby sister arrived, things around the house have gone downhill--so she might as well just run away and live under the kitchen table (close to the pantry in case she runs out of food, of course). But she can't help overhearing how sad her parents are without her, so Frances decides to leave her hideout and return home to her family. This old classic has humor for both children and adults, endearing illustrations, and a simple message. Without delving into the deeper emotional stress that many children experience when they get a new sibling, this book still addresses some of the surface changes that accompany a new baby, and the happy ending will reassure new big sisters and brothers. This book has easy language with a lot of text per page, making it appropriate for early elementary readers.

Summary from SPL: "When things change around the house after her baby sister is born, Frances decides to run away--but not too far."

First published in 1964; no reviews found.

Stephanie says

I bought this book as a present for my *older* daughter (astute readers of my reviews will immediately intuit that a BLESSED EVENT has occurred; my *younger* daughter is almost two months old now and is doing great).

Aside from a disconcerting gap in continuity (I truly thought I had bought a misprinted version with a page missing; it was only after comparing my daughter's book with other versions in the library did I realize that I bought the book the author intended), this was a wonderful book, almost as good as Bread and Jam for Frances, also by Russell Hoban. Poor Frances is coping with the (relatively mild) upheavals in her household after the birth of baby sister Gloria. Her parents, just as they did in Bread and Jam for Frances, deal with Frances's unhappiness with wit and grace, once again showing themselves to be ideal parental role models.

I don't know if life is imitating art or if art is imitating life, but my older daughter has taken to hiding under the dining room table when she feels aggrieved, just like Frances. She also liked the book well enough to request multiple readings.

Kate says

A cute book. Would be a good gift for a child who is soon to be a big brother or big sister.

Lisa Brown says

Another of my all time favorite children's books, and one that I like to give to people who are having a second baby. A clever story about Frances' reaction to a new baby in the house. My favorite scene is where she "runs away" to under the table and her parents have a pretend conversation about missing her while she is gone. I also love the way her parents confront the issue with love and understanding.

Anne White says

Frances and Gloria are a part of our family culture.

Jo Oehrlein says

For a child who can sit still for a bit, as there are a good number of words on each page....

Cute story about Frances who feels a bit neglected (her favorite dress isn't ironed and they're out of raisins) now that her mother is so busy with new baby sister Gloria.

Frances runs away to under the dining table.

Her parents have a great discussion about how family means everyone together, how much they miss Frances, and the things about her that they like.

Hunta Jones says

good

Sarah Adamson says

Another fun book in the Frances series. This one is ideal for kids with siblings! Frances is fed up with the change in her house with the arrival of her new baby sister. She decides to run away - to under the dining room table. Beautifully illustrated and lovely story.

babyhippoface says

I loved Frances when I was a little girl. She was a furry badger, but she and I had some things in common. I couldn't sleep when there was the possibility of a giant, frightening *thing* crawling out of the crack in the ceiling, either. My mother was great at reading aloud and singing all of Frances' songs, too. I have trouble singing Frances' songs, because I'm never sure how the tunes are supposed to go. It drives me nuts.

That aside, the Frances books remain some of my all-time favorites. In *Baby Sister*, Frances is upset at the way her life has been turned on its head with the arrival of baby Gloria. No one has time for her anymore. She may as well run away. And where will she run *to*? Underneath the kitchen table, of course. Where else?

Frances' parents are interminably patient. (Okay, Dad does get the tiniest bit gruff in *Bedtime*, but it's barely noticeable.) I particularly enjoy the scene where Mother and Father lament over Frances' disappearance in voices loud enough for Frances to hear. She is is the kind of child who engenders lots of >>*winkwink*, *nudgenudge*<< moments from her parents, I'd say. A calmer, earlier Junie B., if you will. And that's what makes her so lovable. That and the fact that she's *not mine*.

>>*winkwink*, *nudgenudge*<<

Margaret Chind says

One of many in Harper Collins Treasury Of Picture Book Classics: A Child's First Collection.

While I did not remember the story, the illustrations of Frances are special from my childhood memories. This is a perfect time to share this new sibling story with my newly big sister AppleBlossom. I love the illustrations and the text. With a mixture of sing song poetry and prose it is a delightful read. Also there are more words here than you seem to find in more recent new sibling stories so this gives it the cuddle worthy reading quality.

We have also recently added the I Can Read! Level 2 edition of this book to our library shelves after a splurge on most of the Frances I Can Read! books by my preschooler's request. Though she is not yet reading on her own, Frances is a character she is requesting often. The I Can Read! edition appears to be the same text, just with extremely large font and in a 6x9 format as per usual with the early readers than opposed to the almost square larger size found in the treasury and assumably if the story were alone. I do prefer the smaller text size as to the book alone or treasury, but I think that the big text in the I Can Read! is just fine. The sing song poems are in italics.

twice_baked👉? says

"Well," said Frances. "Things are not very good around here anymore."
