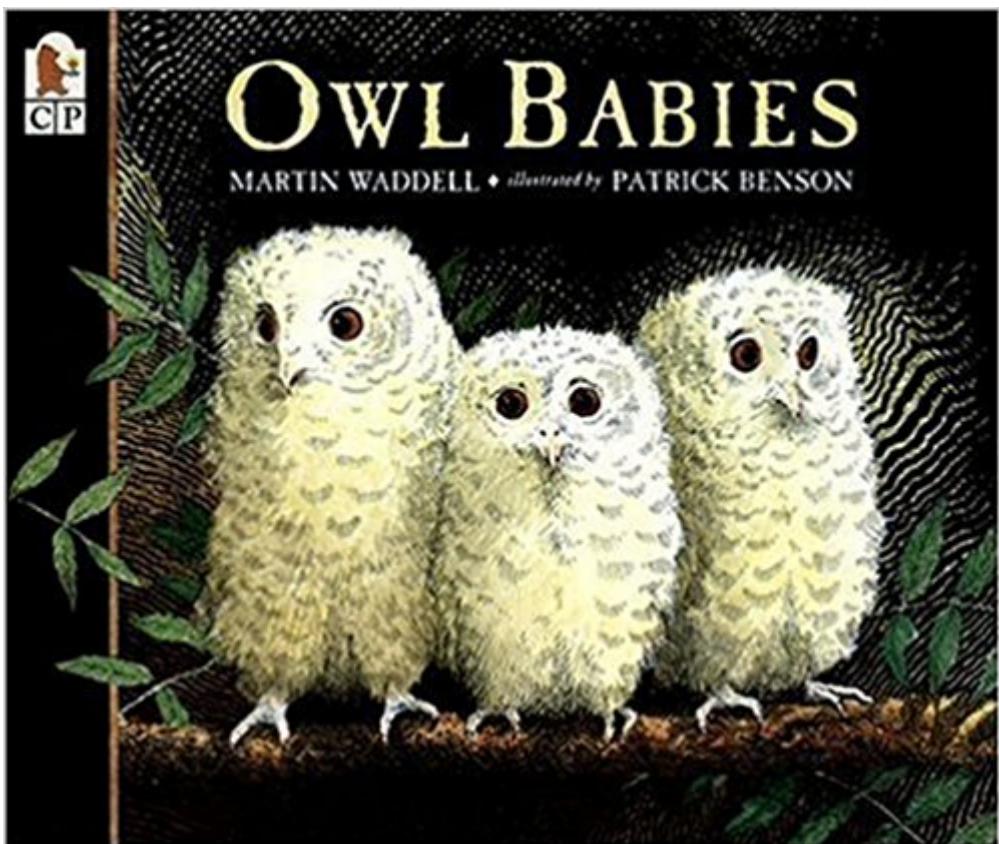


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## Owl Babies



## **Synopsis**

A tender tale to remind the youngest of children that Mommy always comes back."I want my mommy!" Three baby owls awake one night to find their mother gone, and they can't help but wonder where she is. What is she doing? When will she be back? What scary things move all around them? Stunning illustrations from striking perspectives capture the anxious little owls as they worry. Not surprisingly, joyous flapping and dancing and bouncing greet the mother's return, lending a celebratory tone to the ending of this comforting tale. Never has the plight of young ones who miss their mother been so simply told or so beautifully rendered.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Candlewick; Reprint edition (April 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763617105

ISBN-13: 978-0763617103

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.2 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 327 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #8,280 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Birds #51 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents #72 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Sleep

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## **Customer Reviews**

Three worried owlets wait for their mother to return from her night flight. PW said, Benson's disarming cross-hatched pictures of fluffy, wide-eyed owl babies, and the use of light-colored text against a black background, turn this sweet story into a hauntingly lovely book. Ages 3-7. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

PreSchool-- This simple story pales in comparison to the exceptionally well-crafted illustrations. Rendered in black ink and watercolor with an abundance of crosshatching used to show background, shadow, texture, and depth, each stunning woodcutlike panorama fills a double-page spread. Benson has chosen shades of turquoise, pale yellow, and light green for the large-type text

in order to avoid detracting from the blue-and-green dominated paintings. Realistic as they appear, the three, fluffy, white baby owls and their mother are infused with distinct personalities. The owlets awaken one night to find their mother gone. Sarah, the largest, reasons that she is out hunting for food. Mid-sized Percy tends to agree, while tiny Bill will only repeat, ``I want my mommy!'' Mom, just out for a night flight, does return, of course, and her fledglings are delighted to see her. The repetition just doesn't work. The plot is too meager, the text too unexciting. Hutchins's *Good Night Owl* (Macmillan, 1991), Thaler's *Owly* (HarperCollins, 1982), and Yolen's *Owl Moon* (Philomel, 1987) are all better stories for preschoolers. Simple, well-written books about mother love and reassurance for this age group are abundant. --Susan Scheps, Shaker Heights Public Library, OH  
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I encountered the paperback version in my local bookstore during my lunch hour. My son was not even 1 years old yet, but he cried terribly every morning when I left for work and waited desperately for me when the sun sets and I'm not home yet. It was a time when I was working until 10p.m. to get a project done by a specific due date and he'd refuse to go to bed until Mommy got home. When I read the book, it appealed so much considering what was going on at the time, that even though I thought my baby was a little too young, I bought it anyway. The paperback is beautiful and large, each individual page truly like artwork that you could frame on the wall! It was a hit with my son from the first day. However, my husband only read it to him when Mommy is not around once. He started crying at "And she came!" because HIS Mommy hadn't come. Before this happened, we weren't sure whether he understood the story! My son loved the book so much, he often took it and insisted on turning the pages himself. By the time my baby boy turned one, the paperback was looking quite worn. He'd torn the pages a bit, here and there, and we were sad to see the beautiful artwork marred by tape, but that's what books are for, right? To be loved and used. When he finally pulled the cover off the book, we decided it was time to buy a new copy. When I saw that .com had a boardbook version, I immediately ordered that one, as that would last longer than the paperback with my physically over-affectionate 1.5 year old. The boardbook serves its purpose for my toddler to flip through, but I think I will be buying another paperback version when he gets a little older, because the boardbook is short by 10 pages, dropping many pieces of beautiful illustrations, although the words and the story is fully intact. It is also smaller in size, so some of the detail is lost to the eye. Now that my son is 2 years old, he has taken to flapping his arms and bouncing up and down with the baby owls when Owl Mother has arrived. I have no doubts that this book will engage

my baby boy for a few years more.

A special book in a number of ways. My 2 1/2 yr old granddaughter loves it and it held a special attraction for her during a period when she was dealing with a new sibling. I found that interesting because it isn't about having a new sibling, but it does deal with the fears of mama disappearing, which is clearly related. The story involves three baby owls who wake to find mama gone and they try to reassure themselves that she is going to return soon. The youngest is not convinced and keeps repeating: "I want my mama." It is the essential cry of the young child. It deals well with a common fear of young children, it has wonderful repetition, rich language and yet is not heavy on text. It also has wonderful illustrations that really introduce the concept of perspective.

I have read this book to years of students and to my own kids. They have all LOVED this book! Sweet story of 3 baby owls missing their momma (even more fun read with tailored voices!). Many generations have enjoyed this book and many more will continue to love it! No doubt about it!

I can never say enough nice things about Martin Waddell's books. The illustrations are so engaging, but it is the words that just flow from the three baby owls that make this such a great little book. Well done and perfect for sharing!

This is a favorite bedtime story! Our 10 month old son loves the pictures and points at the owls on each page with a big grin on his face. So obviously, we love it because it makes him so happy!

While I'm still not sold on the blue background replacing the original black, this copy is similar to the hardcover edition we had growing up, however it is more compact and sturdier as it is a board book

My FAVORITE book to read with my son. "I want my mommy!" so much fun - great opportunity for inflections and voices

Great story of three little owl babies and their feelings when mama left the nest to find them food, My Granddaughters loved this book.

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