



## The Wildest Brother

*Cornelia Funke , Kerstin Meyer (Illustrator)*

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By day, Ben is one brave brother--but when night falls, even the wildest boy sometimes needs protecting by his big sis. The third hit picture book by the best-selling Funke and award-winning Meyer.

Brave as a lion, strong as an elephant, Ben is a fearless young boy. When it comes to protecting his big sister, Anna, nothing can stand in his way! Gallantly he spends his day battling moldy green ghosts, slime-belching monsters, and all sorts of ferocious beasts. But when the day is over and darkness falls, Ben suddenly doesn't feel quite so brave. Sometimes, he realizes, it's the big sister who does the protecting.

Featuring Meyer's witty, whimsical artwork and Funke's deft balance of humor, emotion, and truth, this is the perfect bedtime read for rambunctious brothers and sisters.

## The Wildest Brother Details

Date : Published May 1st 2006 by Chicken House (first published February 28th 2005)

ISBN : 9780439828628

Author : Cornelia Funke , Kerstin Meyer (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Family

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## From Reader Review The Wildest Brother for online ebook

### Lia Brent says

Does Cornelia Funke have a favorite main character? Of course! A kid who follows the beat of his/her own drum! Ben is so lucky to have the most understanding big sister Anna. Anna participates in his imaginative battles all day long and helps him conquer his fears later at night. Yes, she has an annoying little brother sometimes. But she still loves, helps, and accepts him just the way he is.

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### Jaclyn LeVasseur says

Summary: This story displays a unique bond between an older sister, Anna, and her younger brother, Ben. During the day, Ben has a wild imagination and is strong and brave like brothers are supposed to be. For example, Anna hides in the wardrobe and has to make monster noises; grunting, snorting, and growling. Ben fetches his many swords and fights the man-eating monster. But in the evening, Ben crawls into Anna's bed and she does what big sisters are supposed to do, protect him from all the scary biting beetles. Sometimes brothers really do need their big sisters to confront and protect them. Ben says, "And it is sooo wonderful to have a big, strong sister."

Themes: This story teaches us about the model dynamics of an older sister and her little brother. As an older sister, you have many responsibilities, as well as, being the younger brother. But having a wild imagination is a key principle to being a kid.

Personal response: This story reminded of my childhood and the dynamics I had with my siblings. Creating wild adventures with your siblings can create a tight bond between them and create something special and unique.

Recommendation: This book could start a conversation about the roles of siblings and the bond between them. I would recommend this book to families because it shows the roles of each sibling and how they should act towards each other, while still being kids with wild imaginations.

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### Lia L says

A pretty good book. I read it real quickly, but it was too small to read, but I love to get new books on my shelf and it was quick so I read it and I recommend it for about 3-6 year olds because it doesn't include much writing and the writing is very big.

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### Hope Johnson says

This teaches kids that no matter how brave and fearless you are it is always good to have someone there to protect and help you too. This book is full of adjectives and literary techniques that you could introduce to your students such as bolding words for emphasis.

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### **Rachel Yingling says**

Ben is a wild brother who wants to protect his sister from all of the scary monsters in the world. He protects her all day, but then it gets dark and is bedtime and then Ben goes to his sister for her to protect him. Good story for children to see that we all have moments when we are afraid and moments when we are brave. There are people in our lives who can and will protect us. Shows a good and realistic view of sibling relationships.

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### **Laura says**

This book was amusing. I could see the relationship between the brother and sister. I liked how well the older sister put up with her rambunctious and energetic little brother who had an overactive imagination. The ending was quite sweet as well. The illustrations were fun. I might recommend.

\*Taken from my book reviews blog: <http://reviewsatmse.blogspot.com/2009...>

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### **Debbie says**

I read this with my 8 year old daughter, it's a nice easy read for one in 2nd or 3rd grade.

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### **Garrett Podell says**

Summary: Ben is a little brother who with the power of his imagination fights off numerous monsters in order to protect his big sister, Anna. All throughout his sister's room, the bathroom down the hall, and the kitchen, he protects her from array of imaginary monsters that are very real to him. He also protects his sister and her guinea pigs from different animals while she goes through the garden. This fighting leads Ben's muscles to grow in strength, but at night he is afraid of the dark and the "creaks of the heater. So when nighttime comes around, Ben crawls into his sister's bed, grateful for "a big, strong sister."

Theme: The major theme of the story is family because Ben protects and saves his Anna all day long, and she returns the favor when Ben's frights at night come around.

Star Rating: Four stars.

Personal Response: I liked the book a lot because it showcased a great relationship between siblings, which mirrors the one I have with my little brother, and it shows that they are always there for each other in their times of need.

My Recommendation: I would definitely recommend the book to children from pre-k to first grade because it reflects an active imagination and a great sibling relationship dynamic.

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### **Susan says**

Ben is the wild child brother of the patient Anna, and this brother/sister portrayal is spot-on "sometimes Ben paints red spots onto Anna's desk with her make-up. And he tells her they are the BLOOD DROPS from a MAN-EATING MONSTER." As the Mom of the oldest child daughter and two younger brothers, I especially liked the book - the mix of aggravation and revenge (a good tickling!) but the ending was just perfect. The art my Kerstin Meyer is perfect for the story.

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### **Charlotte Osborn-bensaada says**

Funke details through simple prose and Myer tickles with fun illustrations the high and low of an imaginative little brother and his older sister. The sibling relationship is funny and sweet and one I have seen in my own younger brother and now my daughter and son.

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### **Gwen Grespan says**

Goodreads #7

Summary:

Ben is a wild little boy with a huge imagination. He likes to use his sister, Anna's make up to draw scares and make fake blood but when she catches him she tickles him all over. He tells her the blood comes from monsters and that he will protect her because he is lionhearted and elephant-strong. He fights monsters, ghosts, burglars, and scary animals in order to protect his sister. However, in the evening when it is time for bed and Ben gets scared, he crawls into bed with his big sister and she protects him.

Themes:

The theme of this book is that siblings are there to support us. Just as Anna needed her little brother to protect just as much as Ben needed his big sister. Even if a child does not have a sibling they may be supported by a neighborhood friend or cousin who watches out for them just as they would watch out for the neighborhood friend or cousin.

Personal Response:

This book reminds me of when I was little and would play with my own siblings. My sister and I would build fairy houses in the backyard while my brother would play more rough games with the neighborhood boys. My brother always would look after me when we were playing outside. However, when it came to school I would always stand up for him because he was my brother and I cared about him. I will always support my siblings and they will always support me because that is what family is for.

Recommendation:

I personally would not recommend this book to read to children because I think it supports stereotypes that are not necessarily true. The book makes it seem like only male figures can protect women. Throughout the book the boy does all the fighting and protecting while the girl plays with makeup and in the garden. However, I do appreciate the message that siblings are there to support each other, I just believe it could be approached a different way.

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### **Sam says**

The Wildest Brother by Cornelia Funke, published in 2006.

Genre: Fiction

Format: Picture Book

Plot: This book discusses the brave deeds of Ben, who fights to protect his sister Anna from monsters, robbers, bears, and wolves as she goes through her day in the house and in the yard. At night though when Ben is scared, he goes to sleep with his big sister, who keeps him safe in the night.

Considerations: This does feature some light violence with toy swords.

Review Citation: Horn Book July/Aug 2006

Selection Source: Charlotte Huck's Children's Literature: A Brief Guide

Recommended Age: Ages 3 - 5.

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### **Kat says**

Basic Plot: Little brother has to protect big sister from all kinds of evil nasties.

Little boys are always slaying dragons and catching burglars. Heck, my son the superhero-knight-cowboy-wizard (his own words) regularly puts out fires (he's also a firefighter), rescues other superheroes, and even wins car races (he's also a racecar driver) just in my living room. True story. Watched it happen right before my eyes just yesterday. Legos may have been involved. This story was great because it really captured that sense of little kid adventure. The way that the story was worded showed how the sister plays along with her brother and has fun as part of his adventures.

The art also played into the sense of wonder by showing the household objects morphing into monsters, the sister's facial expressions, and the little boy's imagined heroism. The end really makes the story, though, really showcasing how much the siblings care about each other. Simply wonderful.

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### **Pamela says**

I loved the positive way the big sister/little brother relationship was portrayed in this story. It teaches big sisters that they can have fun with little brother's crazy antics. It teaches little brothers that big sisters can be protective and loving. Cute story and great illustrations!

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### **Suzie says**

Cute book. Anything with a dragon is a bonus for my guys.

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