



The Year of the Baby (An Anna Wang novel)

By Andrea Cheng

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Last year, Anna learned how to be a good friend. Now that her family has adopted a baby girl from China, she wants to learn how to be a good sister. But the new year proves challenging when the doctor warns that the baby isn't thriving. Can Anna and her best friends, Laura and Camille, create a science project that saves the day? In this heartwarming sequel to *The Year of the Book*, readers will be just as moved by Anna's devotion to her new sister as they will be inspired by her loving family and lasting friendships.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 1-4-In this sequel to *The Year of the Book* (Houghton Harcourt, 2012), Anna Wang's parents have adopted a toddler from China. Kaylee's failure to thrive is being monitored by an unsupportive doctor, and Anna's mother is frantic about the child's low weight and resistance to food. Even Grandma Wang's herbs do not entice her to eat. Meanwhile, Anna cannot think of an original science project that "really matters" until she and her Chinese friend Camille stumble upon something. As Camille sings a Chinese song, Kaylee seems mesmerized and eats more than usual. Anna and her project partners design a controlled experiment that proves their hypothesis: listening to songs, especially those in Chinese, encourages Kaylee to eat. And indeed, she gains nearly a pound. The experiment is entered in the town-wide science fair. Anna learns to appreciate the wisdom of Camille, who struggles academically but possesses a serene emotional intelligence. This book deals deftly with a range of thorny adoption- and ethnic-stereotyping issues, such as the abandonment of female Chinese infants and the assumption that all Asians are gifted students, and it has special meaning for families touched by adoption. The delicate black-and-white drawings scattered throughout the straightforward text help make this a good choice for readers new to chapter books, and it will appeal to fluent readers looking for a compelling story.-Deborah Vose, Highlands Elementary School, Braintree, MA(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

In this follow-up to *The Year of the Book* (2012), the focus of 11-year-old narrator Anna shifts to the new girl in the house, adopted a few months ago from China. Now in fifth grade, Anna exhibits the same understated thoughtfulness she did in the last book. Cheng deftly shows how Anna thinks through a problem, whether it is a science-project topic or the fact that her little sister, Kaylee, hasn't gained enough weight to satisfy the pediatrician. Cheng's tying up of story threads is as tidy as Barton's spot illustrations. To top it off, young cooks get a recipe for bao zi buns. Grades 2-4. --Abby Nolan

Review

"Middle-grade readers will find many ways to connect with Anna and her friends in this warm family and school story."

—*Kirkus*

"This book deals deftly with a range of thorny adoption- and ethnic-stereotyping issues, such as the abandonment of female Chinese infants and the assumption that all Asians are gifted students, and it has special meaning for families touched by adoption."

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

"The science-fair and adoption angles make this useful in a number of settings, and readers who have followed Anna since fourth grade will hope Cheng goes on to keep tabs on her as she reaches sixth grade."

—*Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kevin Nixon:

The book *The Year of the Baby* (An Anna Wang novel) make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable far more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem with the subject. If you can make reading a book *The Year of the Baby* (An Anna Wang novel) being your habit, you can get far more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. You can know everything if you like start and read a publication *The Year of the Baby* (An Anna Wang novel). Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this e-book?

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Edward Emory:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive today, people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a book your ability to survive enhance then having chance to stay than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading the book, we give you this particular *The Year of the Baby* (An Anna Wang novel) book as beginning and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

Mary Clement:

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