



Boo's Surprise (Boo's Dinosaur)

By Betsy Byars

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"A dinosaur! A new dinosaur!" Boo shouted. "This dinosaur left me a big surprise."

Boo is excited to receive a giant egg and to find out what's inside! Her brother, Sammy, is not, but he is still willing to help her after the egg hatches into a lovable baby dinosaur. Is it all Boo's imagination or not? The youngest chapter book reader will want to find out in this wonderfully imaginative sequel to *Boo's Dinosaur*.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Convincing family relationships enhance Boo's experiences; child-centered dialogue abets the taut pacing. Engaging double-page drawings extend the text with humor and warmth. Brooks's illustrations vary shading to depict the fully realized characters. The dinosaur's dynamic expressions provide a warm immediacy to the engaging plot, and Boo's bouncy pigtails convey her youthful exuberance. The successful balance between fantasy and realism creates a satisfying chapter-book selection.” *?Kirkus Reviews*

“Lots of fun for sharing and reading aloud.” *?Booklist*

About the Author

BETSY BYARS, a Newbery Medalist, has written beginning readers such as *The Golly Sisters*, chapter books such as the bestselling *Tornado*, and novels such as *Summer of the Swans* and *The Pinballs*. She and her husband live in South Carolina.

ERIK BROOKS is the illustrator of *Boo's Dinosaur* and Shirley Climo's *Monkey Business*. He is also the author and illustrator of *Slow Days*, *Fast Friends*, among others. Erik lives in Winthrop, Washington, with his family.

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1 The Surprise

Boo ran into the house. “A dinosaur! A new dinosaur!” she shouted.

“Not another one,” her brother, Sammy, said.

“Sammy, this was so exciting,” Boo said. “I was sitting in the tree reading a book.”

“That was exciting—reading a book in a tree? I do that all the time.”

“I’m getting to the exciting part,” said Boo. “I was reading my book, and I heard a very, very heavy thump behind the trees.” “Something was behind the trees?” “Yes, and I knew it was a dinosaur because the thump was very, very loud. I have heard dinosaurs thump like that before.”

“So you went behind the trees and there it was. Big deal,” said Sammy.

“No! Wait! I haven’t gotten to the exciting part. I climbed down the tree as fast as I could. Then I ran through the trees as fast as I could,” said Boo.

“And there it was,” said Sammy.

“No! It was gone. Now I’m getting to the exciting part.”

“Please do.”

“This dinosaur left me a big surprise.”

“What?”

“A giant egg!”

2

The Giant Egg

“Does anybody know anything about hatching an egg?” Boo asked.

Nobody answered. Mom was cracking eggs into a bowl. Dad was reading the paper.

Boo continued, “Suppose a person had an egg...”

Sammy looked at her. “A giant egg?”

“Oh, all right, a giant egg,” Boo said. “Suppose a person found a giant egg. How would she get it to hatch?”

“I don’t know anything about hatching eggs. I just know how to cook them,” said Mom as she cracked another egg.

Dad looked up from his paper. “I heard a noise like that in the middle of the night,” he said. “It was so loud it woke me up. It came from that field behind the trees. Maybe it was a rifle shot or—”

Boo did not wait for the rest. She jumped up.

“Boo, where are you going?” asked Mom. “You haven’t eaten your breakfast.”

“I’ll eat later,” Boo called as she ran out the door.

Excerpted from *Betsy Byars* by Erik Brooks.

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