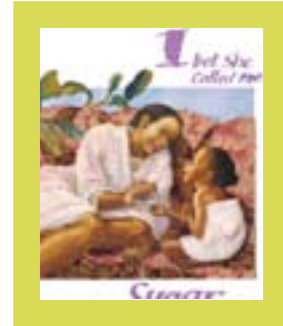


Book Review

I Bet She Called Me Sugar Plum

Written By Joanne V. Gabbin

Illustrated By Margot Bergman



Joanne Gabbin & Margot Bergman have collaborated on a beautiful children's book about sharing love across generations and among families. Over the course of an afternoon and evening, a young African American girl eagerly asks for and listens to her mother's stories of her own wise and giving mother. At the end of the day, while tucked safely in bed, she asks her mother about her adoption. "Did I grow in your tummy?" "What did my first mommy call me?" Her mother answers the first question directly and lovingly. The little girl draws on one of the stories she heard about "Grandma" to answer the second: "I bet she called me Sugar Plum".

The story shows how a child who is raised with stories of love and caring will see her

world as an accepting, safe place – she assumes her birth mother had a sweet name for her (just like her Grandma had for her mother), because she knows she is a cherished child.

The illustrations use fabric, beads, flowers and other found objects to add texture and delight to the story. And there's a wonderful surprise at the end – a cutout paper doll of the girl in the book, with some of the dresses she wears in the story. The child who receives the gift of this book can act out the story and make up others about herself and "Sugar Plum".

"I Bet She Called Me Sugar Plum" offers a warm and gentle way to talk about adoption and family with your child.