

Book Review

We See The Moon

by Carrie Kitze

EMK Press



We are deeply grateful for this book! In a sea of books that deal with explaining the process of adoption to readers rather than addressing how it feels to be adopted, *We See the Moon* stands alone — simple, hopeful, spare — focused, refined and beautiful.

We See the Moon is a linger-over-must-read book for everyone who has ever been touched by adoption, no matter their age or their particular experience with adoption. Written from an adopted child's perspective (whether adopted as a baby or older child, or internationally, domestically or through the public welfare system), it asks the questions about birthparents that are often unspoken: What do you look like? Where are you now? Do you think of me?

Adapting the concept from the song — "I see the moon, the moon sees me...Please let the moon that comforts me, comfort the one I love." — readers watch the heroine of the story use the moon as a private tool to connect with the birth family that is always with her in her imagination. The brightly colored tempera paintings depict detailed but simple scenes and convey a childlike quality that complements the text.

Created by peasant women in Jinshan County near Shanghai, China the drawings employ a limited use of perspective and enrich the tradition of looking to the moon to connect with family and loved ones who can't be together.

Delivering through text and images the message that all beings are connected, *We See the Moon* succeeds in transforming the sadness of separation into a healing experience, inspiring readers toward finding their own meaning. There is no sense of complaint; rather, readers get an opportunity to share the very real questions of a child and her openness to reinventing core connections, finding universes of belonging that soften the void of her absent birth parents. The hopeful message that all lives are lived under the same moon provides a long sigh of relief and is deeply moving in the context of the shared experience of adoption for all triad members and their families. The illustrations add to the treasure, increasing the resonance of this easy to identify with and timeless story that takes hold of you gently and won't let go. Every adopted child (or adult) needs a copy of this book.