

Annabelle: A Child on the Way

Beti Rozen

Peter Hays

Eliardo Franca, Illustrator

Sem Fronteiras Press (October 2010)

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What if children choose the families into which they are born? This children's picture book, *Annabelle: A Child on the Way*, ponders that possibility. Annabelle is a girl-spirit who wishes to be reborn. She calls on her spiritual guide, who advises her to look for a family she might like. Annabelle observes many people and places and decides on a small town where she has noticed a four-year-old boy named Philippe. Annabelle secretly accompanies the family as they visit museums, playgrounds, and the zoo. She senses Philippe's yearning for a sister, but his wish is not quite enough to make Annabelle's dream a reality. Annabelle must find a way to win the busy family over to the idea of another child.

Award-winning author Beti Rozen has published over ten children's books, four of which are collaborations with Peter Hays, an American playwright. Illustrator Eliardo Franca's fanciful cloud-like illustrations successfully bridge the vivid world of Brazil, where the story is set, and the dreamlike world of Annabelle's spirit. This story is a charming way to introduce children ages five and up to the possibility of a new brother or sister.

MARY POPHAM (November 19, 2010)

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