ForeWord Reviews

PICTURE BOOKS

By the Light of the Moon
Sheridan Cain
Gaby Hansen, illustrator
Tiger Tales
978-1-58925-062-8
(March 2007)

"Where, oh where can my Little Mouse sleep?" Mother Mouse wondered and worried, as she hugged him tightly, desperately looking for a place for the two of them to spend the night. Mole had warned her that the farmer was about to plow the field they called home. Well-meaning friends Mole, Owl, and Duck suggested sleeping in a snug underground hole, high up in a tree's nest, or on a damp bed of reeds. In spite of all the caring suggestions from friends, Mother does know best! Gazing up at the nighttime sky, she fondly remembers her own home from long ago under the shiny, silvery moon and twinkling stars. There is no place like home, and Little Mouse settles down in a safe, grassy nook to go to sleep by the light of the moon.

This is a tender story of a mother's love for her little one and her concern to keep him out of harm's way. The repetition in the story, Mother Mouse's gentle touch, and her voice and concern for her baby, as well as the comforting watercolors on each page will lull to sleep children from two to six years old, as they snuggle under the covers.

Cain has been entertaining children for many years with books such as *Why so Sad Brown Rabbit*, *The Teeny Weeny Tadpole*, and *The Crunching Munching Caterpillar*.

Illustrator Hansen brings a magical quality to the artistry in this story. Using glitter flocking, the pages sparkle and shimmer with moonlight as well as with puffy white and silver stars. The gentle hues of soft greens, blues, and browns under the light of the moon are restful and soothing, fitting for a bedtime story.

Children will be engaged by this book.