

Charlie Flower's Tail

A. B. Ware

AuthorHouseUK (Mar 13, 2017)

Softcover \$13.65 (24pp)

978-1-5246-7851-7

Charlie Flower's Tail is a whimsical bedtime story that is sure to bring about sweet, colorful dreams with fanciful themes.

Appealing to the ripe imaginations of young children, A. B. Ware's *Charlie Flower's Tail* is set in a strange world filled with fantastical elements.

A little boy named Peter is shocked to see a beautiful bird hatching from the Easter egg in his room. Named Charlie Flower, the purple, blue, and gold bird has a gorgeous colorful tail. Charlie takes Peter on an adventure to his home, located between the indigo and violet colors of the rainbow spectrum. This is a place where plants have feathers, cats can speak, and every single thing is a shade of blue or purple.

Since Peter is wearing red pajamas, he feels quite out of place; many children may identify with this theme of feeling like they sometimes don't belong. But Peter soon becomes the hero by helping a little bird get back in his tree—in this place, while cats can fly, birds can't.

Children are sure to see many similarities between the bizarre world of *Charlie Flower's Tail* and *Alice in Wonderland*. The book could have been more carefully edited for punctuation, but this doesn't detract from its strong descriptive language. Ware's careful descriptions will make it easy for the young mind's eye to picture each imaginative scene.

The book is quite short with only a few scenes, and since it ends rather abruptly, it doesn't give the feeling of closure that small children tend to need. Ware may be planning on fleshing out the story of Charlie and Peter in a sequel. The illustrator is only identified by the author as Colin, but the pictures help deliver a great deal of depth and understanding to each event.

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KELLY THUNSTROM (August 30, 2017)

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