Clarion Review

Juvenile Fiction

Why Don't I Have a Daddy? A Story of Donor Conception
George Anne Clay
Lisa Krebs, illustrator
978-1-4259-9587-4
Four Stars (out of Five)

The little lion cub protagonist of this story loves to wander through the fields near his home especially because his mother always goes with him. Sometimes they play hide and seek as they walk. Sometimes they talk about their family and friends and how blessed they are. Sometimes they talk about really important subjects like how families are different. This day as mother and cub walk among their friends they talk about how families may look different but they are all the same in the ways that count. They also talk about how some families have daddies and some families don't. Little cub doesn't have a daddy just a mother and so he asks his mom why he doesn't have a daddy. Mother Lion replies that little cub has a father because all creatures have a father who helped create them. However little cub doesn't have a daddy who lives with him because his father was a donor. That means that he gave a gift of sperm in order for Mother Lion to create the little cub but he isn't a part of their lives and doesn't even know about Little Cub. That is a requirement of giving and receiving the gift of sperm.

Author Clay has created a gift of her own in providing this resource for parents who have chosen this method of childbearing. Ms. Clay has presented the facts in an easy to understand format that will invite questions as children return to the story at different maturity levels. When talking with children about difficult issues it is often best to answer only the questions that they ask knowing that as they mature in understanding they will have more mature questions. The parent's greatest task whether raising children in a two parent family or a single parent family is to be available and honest in their answers.

The illustrations are appealing to young non-readers but will also be a delight when children are able to read the book on their own. While this book may not have a large audience it will certainly be a great conversation-starter where this resource is needed. The "Note to the Grown-ups" included at the end of the text is a further resource for adults provided by a

professional counselor.

Joyce Rice