

SINCE THE BABY CAME

SNEAK
PEEK



SAMPLE
ONLY

UNCORRECTED
PROOF

A SIBLING'S LEARNING-TO-LOVE
STORY IN 16 POEMS



WRITTEN BY
KATHLEEN LONG BOSTROM

ILLUSTRATED BY
JANET SAMUEL



For Mary Alice
You were there when I needed you, my forever friend.
With grateful and unending love,
Kathy

For Alice, my inspiration
Love, JS

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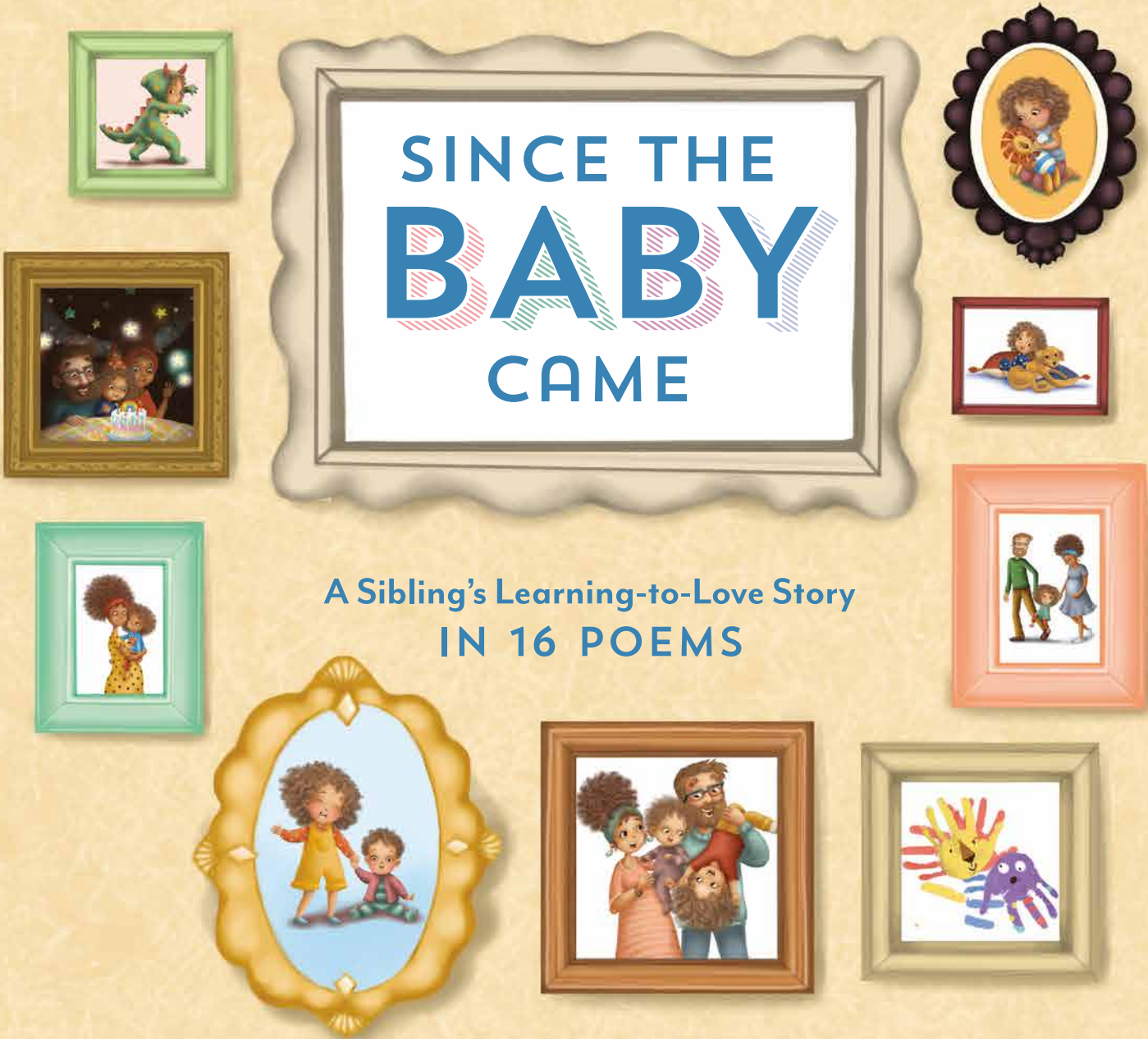
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SURPRISE!

"Surprise!" Mama says.
"We are having a baby!"

Nobody asked *me*.





MAMA IS HAVING A BABY

Mama is having a baby.
Everything's starting to change.
God, can you tell me what happened?
Life is becoming so strange.

Mama grows bigger and bigger.
Now I don't fit in her lap.
Just when I'm ready for playtime,
Mama is taking a nap!

Daddy keeps bringing home presents:
Diapers and blankets and bibs.
My toys are stuffed in a corner.
All pushed aside for the crib.

Baby is taking forever.
Shouldn't he be here by now?
Nobody says when he's coming.
And *nobody* wants to say how.

Mama is having a baby.
It could take years at this rate!
Even though everything's ready,
God, will you help me to wait?

HE'S HERE! HE'S HERE!

He's here! He's here! We're on our way.
I'll meet my brother, born today!
I'll teach him everything I know—
like how to catch and how to throw.

We'll build a city with my blocks
and make a spaceship with a box.
The two of us will have a race.
(But he will come in second place.)

I'll let him wear the shirt I like
and even let him ride my trike.
We'll splash together in the tub
and start our own two-person club.

We'll be best friends, the two of us,
and never, ever fight or fuss.
He'll love *me* more than anyone!
To have him home will be such fun!





WHAT IS IT?

Doesn't walk.
Can't talk.
Eats and sleeps all day.

Teeth are where?
None there.
He's always in the way.

Often smells.
Loud yells!
Cries until he's red.

Tiny toes.
Cute nose.
Fluffy little head.

What is it?



(Answer: A baby!)



LOOK AT ME!

Everybody wants to see
the tiny baby, sweet and new.
I want to tell them, "Look at me!
I'm lots of fun to be with too.

See the things that I can do?
I use a toilet when I pee.
And I know how to tie my shoe.

I run and jump and climb a tree.
Made this picture just for you.
Know my letters, A through Z.
I'm lots of fun to be with too.





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