



Bat and the Waiting Game

Elana K. Arnold , Charles Santoso (Illustrations)

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In the tradition of Clementine and Ramona Quimby, meet Bat. Author Elana K. Arnold returns with another irresistible story of friendship in this widely acclaimed series starring an unforgettable boy on the autism spectrum.

For Bixby Alexander Tam (nicknamed Bat), life is pretty great. He's the caretaker of the best baby skunk in the world — even Janie, his older sister, is warming up to Thor.

When Janie gets a part in the school play and can't watch Bat after school, it means some pretty big changes. Someone else has to take care of the skunk kit in the afternoons, Janie is having sleepovers with her new friends, and Bat wants everything to go back to normal.

He just has to make it to the night of Janie's performance...

Bat and the Waiting Game Details

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Author : Elana K. Arnold , Charles Santoso (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Bat and the Waiting Game for online ebook

Kristen Picone says

I love A Boy Called BAT and have been eager to read BAT and the Waiting Game. I was lucky enough to get and ARC at NCTE and am grateful I did. Another dose of BAT and the Tam family is just what I needed. BAT continues to take care of Thor, the skunk kit that he is allowed to keep until it can be released into the wild. His love for Thor is fierce and Thor being a "toddler" now comes with a new set of challenges. In this book, the readers experiences the difficulty that BAT has as he tries to navigate his first real friendship with Israel. Janie, his sister, being part of a class play also brings about some challenges for BAT, who has a hard time with changes to his routine.

Elena K. Arnold was able to write a sequel that warmed my heart as much as the first. This book gently sheds light on the needs of a child with autism and helps readers see that BAT's struggles are very similar to many other kids his age. I'm already eager for the 3rd book, but I'm sad thinking about BAT having to say goodbye to Thor one day.

Maximilian Lee says

I kind of liked this book because it was slowly paced. I also didn't like this book because the events in the book were very..... well..... "not exciting events" and I like action and adventure. So..... I didn't really like it because of that too. For example, the whole book was basically Bat having troubles with his sister talking about her play and when it finally does come he messes it up. He messes it up by his pet skunk spraying.

Brittany says

I adore Bat and his pet skunk and all of his quirks and mistakes and attempts at understanding the world around him. On the spectrum or not, the societal norms that Bat struggles with (like apologizing and being a good friend) are lessons we can all benefit from relearning again. This is such a great series and one that would be an easy recommendation for those making the leap from chapter books to fiction and those looking for a "clean" or "mild" read. I am quite certain this is not the last we'll see of Bat and for that I am grateful.

Pop Bop says

Low-key and Upbeat

This is the second Bat, (Bixby Alexander Tam), book and a fine entry in the series. The "hook", if you want to call it that, is that Bat is on the autism spectrum, and we follow his daily adventures from his point of view. This series is often compared to book sets that feature antic or hyper characters - Clementine, Ramona, and so on - which I think gives a false sense of the feel of the series. Bat is quiet and thoughtful and observant, and the insights Bat shares and the action in which he engages are also low-key and mild.

I think it's important to emphasize that these aren't "problem" books that have been written just to teach people about autism or otherwise to illustrate or educate about autism. That is an aspect of the book because

that is an important element of Bat's life and character, but these books have a much larger appeal. Bat is a smart, good kid going through the process of growing up. He deals with family, friends, school, frustration, making mistakes, and so on, just like everyone else. The lessons he learns are relatable to any kid reader.

That said, these also aren't just dry lesson books. Bat is funny and engaging. His family is supportive and his friends are appealing. The emphasis on pets and little critters adds appeal. The situations Bat finds himself in can be silly or even slapstick, but they are just right for young readers, and Bat's adventures, while mild, are easy and fun for new readers to follow. I suspect they would recognize themselves in these characters and relate to their adventures in a rewarding and entertaining fashion. (The two dozen or so black and white drawings help in that regard, since they nicely illustrate, frame and enhance the story.)

The upshot, for me, is that the Bat books introduce an appealing kid character in a kid friendly package that's aimed at a tough to serve early-reader crowd. Add in their heart and humor and that's a winner to me.

(Please note that I received a free advance ecopy of this book without a review requirement, or any influence regarding review content should I choose to post a review. Apart from that I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.)

Michele Knott says

Bat absolutely has a piece of my heart.

Ms. Yingling says

E ARC from Edelweiss Plus

In this sequel to A Boy Called Bat, Bat is concerned that Thor is growing up all too quickly. He enjoys carry the baby skunk around in a sling and feeding him bottles, and while he is trying to be a good skunk nurturer and make sure that Thor gets appropriate exercise and food, it makes him a little sad, too. When Bat's sister Janie gets a part in the school play, Bat has to spend time after school at his friend Israel's house after school. While Bat is getting better at being a good friend, Israel's parents are very fascinating, with their big truck and pottery studio, so sometimes Israel feels a bit left out. As Thor gets bigger and more independent, Bat struggles to deal with the needs of his growing pet and his own desire to be with the tiny skunk.

Strengths: This is just the perfect length, has occasional pictures, and has a perfect tone-- supportive, hopeful, and still acknowledging the difficulties of life. Bat's experience with autism falls right in the middle of what I've seen in the students in the autism unit at my school-- some students have more challenges, and some have fewer. The people in his life are portrayed as working with him in a productive manner, and I especially like how Israel will occasionally call him on how he acts. The information about the skunk is good as well.

Weaknesses: The big, culminating event in the book seemed a tad forced, even if it was very funny!

What I really think: I think I might have loaned the copy of the first book to the autism unit teacher and might not have gotten it back, so I don't know how it would do with my students. I suspect that my 6th graders would find this to be a helpful but also amusing. This would be a definite purchase for an elementary school.

Anna says

Another sweet story about Bat and his beloved skunk. I appreciated how Bat came to be more aware of other people's feelings and learned that he can't always have Thor with him. Good development with his friendship with Israel too.

However, I do wish there had been some resolution to the question of how long Thor will be around and how Bat will cope when he isn't.

Alex says

Sequel lives up to the first book. Bat's feelings are so real, and the whole cast of characters feels like a hug.

Susan Morris says

2nd book in the series is another heartwarming story of an autistic boy, Bat, and his adventures with his baby pet skunk. Shows realistically the struggles Bat has to understand other people's feelings. Would be a great read-aloud! (Library)

Sarah says

This book is just as good as the first at providing readers with the perspective of a child with autism. Bat's story is a great choice for younger advanced readers.

Lorie Barber says

I really can't wait for the third one, and this one's not even out yet. A realistic portrait of autism and its effects on family and friends, told with care and in a positive light. Bat is relatable and funny and I will pull for him always.

Niki says

Bixby Alexander Tam (nicknamed BAT) is back with his baby skunk, Thor, for another round of adventures! Just like the first in the series, *Bat and the Waiting Game* is a sweet, charming novel that accurately portrays a main character with ASD (although is perhaps a little light on how his actions impacts those around him).

A delightful second novel and I look forward to the third. I definitely recommend this book for school and

classroom libraries serving grades 2-5 and as a read aloud in those grades, as well, after reading the first, of course!

Mrs. Krajewski says

The Krajewski family still adores Bat! Can't wait for more!

Rachel Reads Ravenously says

3.5 -4 stars

Patrick says

Bat and his skunk Thor are back for more adventures. Lots of lessons and learning in this second installment. Perfect novel for third and fourth graders!
