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A STEPPING STONE BOOK™

BY BARBARA PARK
illustrated by
Denise Brunkus

Little Monkey Business
Contents

1. Surprise
2. The Dump Baby's Room
3. A Very Wonderful Thing!
4. Hoppity and Russell
5. Monkey Business
6. Bestest Friends
7. Some School Words
8. Me and Principal
9. Pigs and Ducks and Stuff

Hand in the Lunch Item of America, July 10, 69, 68, 67, 66, 65, 64

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11 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 2 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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My name is Janie B. Jones. The B stands for Beatrix. Except I don’t like Beatrix. I just like B and that’s all. B stands for something else, too.

I’m only in kindergarten. But I already know how to spell B-A-B-Y. That’s because my mother told me that she is going to have one of those things.

She and Daddy told me about it at dinner one night. It was the night we had stewed tomatoes—which I hate very much.
"Daddy and I have a surprise for you, Junie B.,” said Mother.

And then I got very happy inside. Because maybe I didn’t have to eat my stewie tomatoes.

And also sometimes a surprise means a present! And presents are my very favorite things in the whole world!

See it,” I said very excited.

Then I looked under the table. Because the surprise was hiding down there.

Mother and Daddy smiled at each other.

Then Mother held my hand.

I bounced up and down on my chair.

"What is it? Is it all wrapped up? I don’t
Mother looked angry at me, "I gave up,
You didn't get me a dar'k thing, did you?"
You didn't get me a dar'k thing, did you?"
You didn't get me a dar'k thing, did you?
You didn't get me a dar'k thing, did you?
You didn't get me a dar'k thing, did you?
You didn't get me a dar'k thing, did you?
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You didn't get me a dar'k thing, did you?
You didn't get me a dar'k thing, did you?
You didn't get me a dar'k thing, did you?"
I can spray the can by myself.

And so I held my nose and holleted, P.U. And then that Grace made me go home.

I made a wrinkly nose. Babies smell like P.U., I explained. And I smelt one at my friend Grace’s house. It had some spit-up on its front.

WHAT A STINK BOMB! And then that Daddy went into the kitchen to talk to Mother.

Then Mother called me in there. And she said if the baby smells like a stink bomb, she will buy me my very own air freshener. And then they all left.

Except not on the P.U. baby, I would like the one that smells as fresh as Carolina pine forest, I said. Then me and Mother hugged. And I sat back down at the table. And I finished eating my dinner.

No dessert, that’s what.

Except not my stewie pewie tomatoes.

Except not the one that smells as fresh as Carolina pine forest, I said.
Mother and Daddy passed on the wall a picture of elephants and lions, and a big fat hippo. Mother, you'll notice, is my favorite elephant in the whole world. And there's another, too! Which are my favorite hippos-of-sometime.

The baby's room has new stuff in it, too. The wallpaper there is without the jungle kind. With. And guess what else is in the nursery?

The baby's room used to be the guest room. That's where all our guests used to sleep. Only we never had much guests.

And so now I, we get some, they'll have to sleep. That's why they got room. That's where the baby's room used to be the guest room. Of course, I don't know why, because a baby isn't a nurse, of new baby. It's called a nursery. Except I don't think Mother and Daddy fixed up a nursery for the new baby. It's called the bedroom. They bought a new baby dresser with a white top and yellow knobs on it, and a new basin and dresser. And a basin and dresser room.
Me and my dog Tickle were watching them.

"This wallpaper looks very cute in here," I told them. "I would like some of it in my room, too, I think. Okay? I said. "Can I?"

"Well see," said Daddy.

"Yeah, only that's not fair," I said.

"Cause the baby gets all new junk and I have all old junk."

"Poor Junie B," said Mother very teasing.

"I don't think I'm going to like this dumb baby," I said.

Then she bent down and tried to hug me. Only she couldn't do it very good. Because of her big fat stomach—which is where the stupid baby is.

And so I thought and thought very hard.

"Don't say that, Junie B. Of course you will," she said.

"Of course I won't," I talked back.

"Because it won't even let me hug you very good. And anyway, I don't even know its name.

That's because Daddy and I haven't picked a name for the baby yet," she explained. "We want a name that's a little bit different. You know, something cute like Junie B. Jones. A name that people will remember."
looked at the new baby clothes.
with the green and yellow knobs. And I
and so I opened the new baby dresser
paper again.
Then her and Daddy began passing well-
for start getting used to the idea.
will be here very soon. So I think you'd bet-
a dumb bunny, June B.' she said. And it
Mother frowned again. 'The baby is not
here anymore,' I said.
When's this dumb bunny getting
more.
After that I didn't feel so happy any-
which means no Big Teeny.
Then Mother said, 'We'll see.'
'Big Teeny?' I called out very happy.
we call him when he grows up?'
Mother smiled. 'Well, I Teeny might be

be good.'

How bout Teeny,' I said. 'I mean would
I thought and thought all over again
and so then I scratched my face up. And
name for a tiny baby.'
but I'm not sure that Mrs. CUTZMAN is a good
Mother took a big breath. 'Yes, honey.'
MRS. CUTZMAN? I thought. 'That's
heard.' Mrs. CUTZMAN stuck right in my
lame, Mrs. CUTZMAN stuck right in my
bed, it's fool even after I only heard it one
and I remem-
'MRS. CUTZMAN? I thought. 'That's
she didn't hear me, I think.
Mother frowned a little bit. And so maybe
name is Mrs. CUTZMAN.'
'Is the cafeteria lady at my school and her
'Hey! I know one.' I said very excited.
and then I clapped my hands together real
Ha ha. So there.

"Yeah, only I'm still gonna be the boss since he's gone."

And so I locked down the hall to make the kitchen to get some more paste.

After that, him and Mother went to the Missey's. My name when I'm in trouble.

"There's enough of that kind of talk, Missey." He said.

Daddy snapped his fingers at me. "There's why I said to Tickle. "Cause I'm the biggest there's "I'm gonna be the boss of this baby."

"Big fat toe."

The baby socks wouldn't even fit on my big baby pajamas were very weeny. And
A Very Wonderful Thing!

Yesterday a very wonderful thing happened! And it's called—I had pie for dinner!

That's because my mother went to the hospital to have the baby. And Daddy and Grandma Miller went with her. And so me and my grampa got to stay at his house. All by ourselves. And no one even babysitted us!

And guess what? Grampa smoked a real live cigar right inside the house! And Grandma didn't yell, "Go outside with that thing, Frank!"

Just pie and that's all!

After that, my grampa gave me a piggyback ride. And he let me put on Grandma Miller's new hat—with the long brown feather. And also, I got to walk in her red high heels.
bed, I think.

There was a droopy guy with dews under my
cause except I still didn't sleep that good, "cause
so my imagination wouldn't run wild.

After that he let on the hall light for me.

"Nope. No hidey things in here," he said.

"Grampa looked all around the room and
might be hidey things in here." It's very dark in this big room and so there

"Yeah. Only guess what, Grampa," I said.

in me.

Except for then I got a little bit of scared
sweet dreams, Juneo."

he said.

the big guest bed.

my new front room. And he nicked me into
then. And then my Grampa watched me brush

First I put on my pjs with the feet in

or so I quick took them off.

Only then I fell down in the kitchen. And
And Grandma Miller picked me up. And Grandma Miller hugged me a big hug.

"And it was the boy kind! And I said that Mother had a baby!"

Then me and her and my grampa did all happened! My Grandma Miller came home!

Except before I left, the funnest thing of all time for kindergarten. After that, me and him played until it was time for home.

"And its name was delicious waffles! And Grandpa Miller cooked them for me!"

Only then I sniffed something that woke them right up.

And so this morning, my eyes felt very sagging.

"You're just going to love him, Junie B.!

"And I thought little babies were supposed to be badasses."

But still, my grandma didn’t answer me.
Then Grandma Miller hugged me very
and truly:

"You monkey you ever saw? For really and honest
I said, "Is my brother really the cutest little
Are you telling me the truth, Grandma?"
I said. And so I didn't have to yell anymore.
Then Grandma Miller bended down next
t o me. And, so I'm not supposed to call her Helen, I think.
"Sorry," I said kind of quieter.
I'm not supposed to call her Helen, I think.

"Grandma Miller frowned at me. "Cause
TOO, YOU KNOW!"
DOWN HERE, HELEN? HE'S MY BABY
HE? I WANT SOME ANSWERS.
Just then I slammed my foot very hard.

"Grab on to your hunger when you—"

Hospitals, and you should feel how light he
bigger than any of the other babies in the
And he's big, too, Frank. He's much
Then he walked to Room Nine with me.

Because today Grandma Miller drove me.

Because for not today we didn't school bus. Except for not today we didn't.

Me and her Grace sit together on the

My other best friend is named Grace.

My other best friend is named Grace. I have two best friends in that place.

My room at Kindergarten is named Room Nine.

Hurry and Russell

Wife, and that's all.

She has another name, too. But I just like

Her name is Mrs.

And he waved at my teacher.
...And so he had to drive me here today.

Then I tried to hold that Grace's hand.

Only she quick pulled it away.

"That's not very nice of you, Grace," I said. "And so guess what? Now I'm not going to tell you my special secret."

Lucille held my hand. "I don't think you're a poopy head, Junie B.," she said. "And so you can tell me your special secret. And I won't tell anybody. Not even Grace."

That's when that Grace kicked Lucille in the leg.

And so Lucille pushed her down. And Mrs. had to come pull them off each other.

I raised my hand very polite. "I wasn't involved," I said to Mrs.
She called on William. He is a cry-baby.

I'm not supposed to go ooooooh, ooooooh, me, me!

Mrs. shook her head at me. Because I'm loud. "WEE! WEE! ME!"

"OOOOOOH! OOOOOOH!" I yelled. Real wide world!

I raised my hand way high in the air.

I had the most special secret in the whole world.

I told my heart got very pumpy. Because today?

She said something interesting to share with the class.

Mrs. stood next to her desk. "Who has and is name is show and tell that's what.

What comes after work? Something very fun.

That made me happy inside. Because guess who sheCollege it.

Finished my work. Then I got all done and

After that, we had to sit down and do

After that, Mrs. stood next to me. I said, "Stush yourself, you big fat Jim!"

"You just then a boy named Jim said, "Stush!"

"Just then a boy named Jim snapped, "ALRIGHT TALKING TO YOUR NEIGHBOR I'LL JUST TELL YOU WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW" Ms. snapped her fingers at me.

"See, Lucille? I told you no talking to your neighbor, remember?"

"Yes, only I can't, Lucille," I said. "Cause I won't tell I promise."

"Whispering voice. "Tell me your special secret because Lucille keep on talking to me, that's because Lucille can't do since their good."

"Come on, June. B," she said in her whispering voice.

"Why?"
boy in my class. I can beat him up, I think. "William?" said Mrs. "Since you raised your hand so politely, you may go first."

And so then William carried a paper bag to the front of the room. And he took out a jar of two dead crickets.

"Jump, Hoppy! Jump, Russell," said William. Then he tapped on the glass. "Hey! Wake up there!" he said. After that, William started shaking the jar all over the place. And he wouldn't stop. "WAKE UP, I SAID!" he shouted.

Then Hoppy and Russell started falling all apart. And Mrs. had to take the jar away. And that's when William started to cry. And he had to go to the nurse's office to lie down. Because guess what? My Show and Tell was way better than two dead crickets!