



## Before You Came

*Patricia MacLachlan , Emily MacLachlan Charest , David Díaz (Illustrator)*

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In this new book from the celebrated mother-daughter writing team of Patricia MacLachlan and Emily MacLachlan Charest, a mother reflects on the many things she loved best “before you came.” In lyrical prose, she explains her joy at being able to share all those things with her child, who is now her most treasured thing of all.

This gentle, wonder-filled celebration is the perfect gift for parents, children, and all those who have discovered the joy of sharing their world with someone new.

## Before You Came Details

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ISBN : 9780060512347

Author : Patricia MacLachlan , Emily MacLachlan Charest , David Díaz (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review Before You Came for online ebook

### Matthew says

This is a nice team up. I like David Diaz from his work with Eve Bunting. I like the MacLachlans for so many of their books. This turned out so well. I'm not usually that crazy about this sort of book, but this one came out right. It brought home its message home with concise clarity. That's the beauty of an author that understands frugal word choice.

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### Christine Turner says

A mother relates how she spent time before her child arrived, then passes on a gift of days paddling a red canoe, reading in a pillow-filled hammock until dark, and watching the moon rise at night.

Mother and child.

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### Kate says

Another for the Simpson-Sandoval baby bookshelf - it has canoeing, a Daddy who plays guitar, a family dog, a Mom who loves books and lots of Nature-loving! Also dreamy, colorful illustrations. Perfecto!

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### Kristen says

When I saw the cover, I thought, "Great. Yet another you're-so-special sappy book." But Patricia MacLachlan has a talent for making the story touching without dripping sweetness. A mother describes all she had before her child came along, the red canoe she'd paddle and the cat that was nice sometimes, the moon coming up orange, then yellow, then white. And after her baby comes, she has all these things to share with the baby. Soothing, gentle, and with gorgeous art - great new baby book.

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### Josiah says

Even in his Caldecott-Medal-winning *Smoky Night* I don't believe that illustrator David Diaz was ever more impressive than in his creation of the artwork for *Before You Came*. Bursting with pure colors and the unbridled energy of light, the pictures in this book create a surrounding atmosphere of a mother's joy at the coming of her baby that lifts the story and makes it memorable, and adds emphasis to the message of how much a child can mean in the life of a parent, even one who seemingly already has it all.

The mother in the story tells all about the goodness of her life before her baby came, filled with love and excitement and virtually every form of beauty that one could hope to experience. She wasn't lacking

anything important, really, and was happy with the life she led; however, after the blessing of a new baby is added to all that she has, the mother realizes that there was still further room for gain in a life that had already seemed so full. I guess there's always room for more goodness in a person's life if one is willing to stay open to receiving it.

Lovely and affectionate, *Before You Came* is yet another solid collaboration between the writing team of Newbery Medalist Patricia MacLachlan and her daughter, Emily MacLachlan Charest. It contains some of the most striking artwork to be found in any picture book of 2011, and I enjoyed reading it.

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### **Marissa Elera says**

Before you came, your parents lived their lives, but when you joined them, you colored their world. Immerse yourself in the love as Newbery medalist Patricia MacLachlan teams with her own daughter, Emily MacLachlan Charest, to make 2011 an especially beautiful time to be born. The glowing, spiral haired protagonist tells her child of all she loved before she became a mother, from the red canoe she rowed, to enjoying a book in the outdoors while Papa plays guitar. The lyrical list spans most of the book, curling itself through the pages until, with a final swell, her child comes. She declares all she had is now for him, deciding, "I used to think I had everything. And now I do. I have you."

Fraught with ethereal radiance, an array of lovely textures, and spice-tinged flavor to the tropical air, Diaz's vibrantly colored, swirling illustrations suggest an undeniable kinetic energy simmering gently beneath dreamy landscapes where the characters loll to and fro, swaying out their welcome to their new arrival.

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### **D'Anne says**

Very sweet message throughout and while I give a thumbs up to the mother's expressed love of reading, I do think it's irresponsible of her to let her child stay up all night to read. I mean, come on lady, set limits. That's your job.

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### **Lauren Brown says**

A very beautiful and touching story about a mother who had physical things before her daughter came and now she has everything - her daughter. The illustrations are very unique and eye-catching. It is worth the read just to look at the pictures.

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### **Heather says**

This book is so beautiful - equally with its sentiments, words, and illustrations - that I want to paper children's rooms with it, or turn it into quilts to wrap them in, so they will always be reminded how much they are loved.

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### **Amber Cooper says**

Such an amazing book! The illustrations are absolutely gorgeous! The colors and overall style of the book is captivating! This book "Before You came" is such a "cute" read about a mother's love. Recommended for younger elementary! (Picture book + short story).

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### **Rachel says**

Love the swirling texture of the illustrations and the simple story about love between a mother and a child, not really from the child's point of view so this is more of a picture book for adults but it is just lovely.

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### **Jane says**

This is a sweet book about what life was like before a baby came for the parents. It has a dreamy, ethereal feel.

"Before you came, I had birds at my feeders - cardinals and finches and nuthatches. Blue jays and doves."

"Then you were born. And now all the things I had before you came are for you."

It's really very sweet. The illustrations are unusual for a children's book but I think we need that now and then.

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### **Jessica says**

Wow. This really, really wasn't what I expected. I thought that Before You Came would be about a mother telling her child what her life was like before, and it is, but not in a way that would encapsulate a common experience (something like, "I got married to your daddy" or "I went to college," which, yes, I know, aren't universal experiences). What you get with Before You Came is a lyrical and wonder-filled story of nature. For example, who has a canoe?

Everything is undeniably beautiful, from the text to the illustration, but the illustrations are too eye-searingly neon for my personal taste. It must be an issue of preference, because I wasn't the biggest fan of illustrator Diaz's Newbery winning Smoky Night, either. I do think that this would be a beautiful book to read aloud to your child (though I still much prefer The Runaway Bunny), or in a storytime.

Ages 4-7

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## **Jennifer says**

The illustrations by David Diaz are what drew me in and lead me to buy a copy for a friend who is expecting and one for myself. The colors are luminous and gorgeous and alluring. I can't stop looking at this beautiful gorgeous book and the sweet tale that accompanies it.

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## **Alice says**

I have read 2 Patricia MacLachlan picture books and I gave them both 4 stars. When I started reading this book I thought...3 stars...not as good as the other ones but don't judge a book until the end, because it wraps things up nicely.

I like the pictures but I don't love them. What I do like about them is the colors and the different textures but the very basic shapes aren't all that great for me. The story is sweet without being saccharine sappy sweet! I think if I had children of my own this book would be more sweet for me, but I think a mother would really understand and appreciate this book.

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