



BOOK RESUME: THE BIG BATH HOUSE

BOOK SYNOPSIS

You'll walk down the street / Your aunties sounding like clip-clopping horses / geta-geta-geta / in their wooden sandals / Until you arrive... / At the bath house / The big bath house.

Title: The Big Bath House

Author: Kyo Maclear;

Illustrator: Gracey Zhang

Imprint: Random House Studio

Publisher: Random House Children's Books

On sale date: November 16, 2021

ISBN: 9780593181959

Format: Hardcover

Age Range*: 4-8

Grade Range: 3-5

(Recommended by School Library Journal)

In this celebration of Japanese culture and family and naked bodies of all shapes and sizes, join a little girl—along with her aunties and grandmother—at a traditional bath house. Once there, the rituals leading up to the baths begin: hair washing, back scrubbing, and, finally, the wood barrel drumroll. Until, at last, it's time, and they ease their bodies—their creased bodies, newly sprouting bodies, saggy, jiggly bodies—into the bath.

With a lyrical text and gorgeous illustrations, this picture book is based on Kyo Maclear's loving memories of childhood visits to Japan and is an ode to the ties that bind generations of women together.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"A must-have celebration of cultural understanding and community—and the joy of family." —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

"Maclear and Zhang portray with great warmth the nourishment offered by this cultural institution, making clear to readers the ritual's cozy, home-away-from-home feeling." —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"...a warm and tender story of time with beloved distant family." —*The Bulletin*, starred review

"Zhang's buoyant illustrations in ink, gouache, and watercolors match the water-focused story with transparent, watery hues anchored by strong black outlining." —*The Horn Book*, starred review

"[An] exuberant celebration of family." —*BookPage*, starred review

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY

- New York Public Library
- NPR
- *Publishers Weekly*

Updated 07.15.2024

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*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

- *Kirkus Reviews*
- *Horn Book*
- The American Library Association
- ALA Rise: A Feminist Book Project

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

[Fuse8 Interview \(*School Library Journal* Blog\)](#)

[Geeks Out Interview with The Big Bath House Creators Kyo Maclear & Gracey Zhang](#)

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