

My Aunt Came Back (Harper Growing Tree)

By Pat Cummings

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My aunt came back.

For toddlers just discovering the joy of mimicking words and sounds, this exuberant chant is perfect to read aloud.My aunt came back from Timbuktu
she brought me back a wooden shoe.
A favorite aunt travels to exotic-sounding places and back again, into the arms of her delighted niece. This spirited chant is perfect for reading aloud with toddlers just discovering the joy of mimicking new words and sounds.

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My Aunt Came Back (Harper Growing Tree) By Pat Cummings Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal
PreSchool-Cummings combines rollicking verse with vibrant full-page illustrations to create an eye-catching, toe-tapping board book. "My aunt came back/from Timbuktu/She brought me back/a wooden shoe" is one of the seven rhymes that features a jazzy young woman who brings presents from all over the world to her adoring niece. While places such as Bucharest, Pakistan, and Beijing, and items such as a parasol (from Montreal) and a red beret (from Mandalay) will be new to most preschoolers, the lilting text will have them chanting along before too many repeat readings. Each full-page spread depicts the earth's curvature in the background, a building native to the area of the aunt's visits on the left side, and the child's world on the right. The expressive African-American characters, brimming with joy, are vintage Cummings. An appealing offering by a multitalented author/illustrator.
Tom S. Hurlburt, La Crosse Public Library,
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From Kirkus Reviews
An unusual board book--and entry in the Harper Growing Tree series--that stars an irresistible aunt and a galloping text. Seven destinations and verses describe her travels, e.g., ``My aunt came back from Timbuktu/She brought me back a wooden shoe./My aunt came back from Pakistan/She brought me back a painted fan." At the end, the niece becomes a traveler, too. Every spread shows the curve of the earth in the background, with a building in the style of the country the aunt has visited on the left, and the niece's apartment building on the right. The aunt wears wild and exotic clothing throughout, and sports wonderfully decorated and adorned braids, but what emerges is her independence and sense of adventure, which she succinctly and affectionately passes on to her niece in very few pages. (Board book. 1-3) -- *Copyright ©1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

About the Author
Pat Cummings is the illustrator of the Coretta Scott King Award winner *My Mama Needs Me*, written by Mildred Pitts Walter. She is also the author/illustrator of the Harper Growing Tree book, *My Aunt Came Back* and *Angel Baby*. An instructor of children's book illustration at the Parsons School of Design in Manhattan, she lives with her husband and a big cat named Cash in Brooklyn, NY. In Her Own Words...

"In addition to the *Coretta Scott King* and the *Boston Globe-Horn Book* awards, Pat Cummings is the recipient of nine t-shirts, thirteen mugs, 315 ballerina drawings, and one embroidered pillow from readers. She has been illustrating children's books ever since her graduation from Pratt Institute in the mid-seventies. Ten years later, she began writing them as well when she realized that exposing her younger brother's childhood exploits was an ideal means of revenge. Repeatedly changing Artie's name (to avoid legal action) has made it possible for her to sneak several books about him into print. She thinks he secretly loves it.

"My father was in the army," Pat recalls, "and, as a result, we were constantly traveling. We never lived anywhere for more than three years at a time. My sisters and brother and I were always the new kids on the block." She appreciates having been exposed to different places and lifestyles and still likes to travel and team about other cultures. Now it is research for different books that leads her to African marketplaces, castles in Spain, or unexplored comers of New York City.

"Through the years, drawing was a constant form of entertainment and a handy ice-breaker in new school situations. "In fifth grade, I did a healthy business selling ballerina drawings during recess. My dancers had

pinpoint waists, huge flowered tutus, and legs that tapered down to tiny, needlelike toe shoes. Luckily, my parents encouraged my interest in art. My whole family was-and is a very close-knit and supportive unit.

"I grew up in the fairy-tale generation. My earliest memories are of stories that my mother read to us from a book called *Tales of the Rhine*. We lived in Germany then and would visit castles along the Rhine that made the stories come to life. I recall scenes with dragons and princesses and heroes who turned into stars. The book had few illustrations, but I still remember scenes as they appeared in my mind while she read."

"Ms. Cummings doesn't recall having picture books with positive Black characters as a child. Her goal now is to insure that children who read her books will find a bit of themselves, their world, and their stories reflected in the pages. "I want the book to be worth the time children spend with it. They have to find something between the pages that strengthens them, informs them, embraces or just tickles them. Then, the book works."

"Currently Pat and her husband, Chuku Lee, live in a loft in beautiful downtown Brooklyn, New York. Their cat, Cash, occasionally models for her books, as do family members and friends."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Winston Nakashima:

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up. The dialect styles that writer use for explain it is easy to understand. The actual writer made some investigation when he makes this book. Here is why this book acceptable all of you.

John Wilson:

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