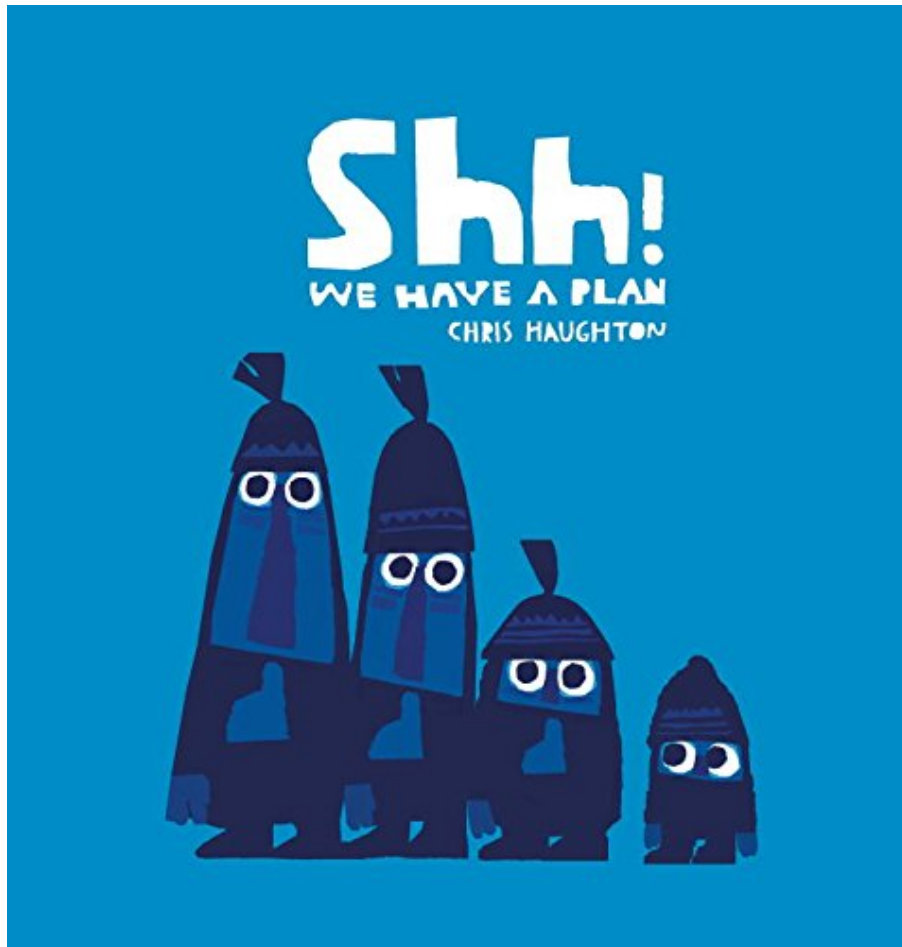


# SHH! WE HAVE A PLAN BY CHRIS HAUGHTON



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From the creator of *Little Owl Lost* and *Oh No, George!* comes a funny, strikingly illustrated story of best-laid plans — and the secret to attracting the birdie.

Four friends creep through the woods, and what do they spot? An exquisite bird high in a tree! "Hello birdie," waves one. "Shh! We have a plan," hush the others. They stealthily make their advance, nets in the air. Ready one, ready two, ready three, and go! But as one comically foiled plan follows another, it soon becomes clear that their quiet, observant companion, hand outstretched, has a far better idea. Award-winning author-illustrator Chris Haughton is back with another simple, satisfying story whose visual humor plays out in boldly graphic, vibrantly colorful illustrations.

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- Published on: 2015-07-15
- Released on: 2015-07-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.30" h x .68" w x 6.29" l, .31 pounds
- Binding: Board book
- 40 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

21 of 22 people found the following review helpful.

Love at first sight!

By Sara

**THE SHORT VERSION:** This book is extraordinary: it's elegant in its simplicity, beautiful on the eyes, and is a delightful story that you won't mind reading over and over again. (Thank goodness for that because you know the kids will ask you to!) I highly recommend this book as a gift for that special young person in your life or as an addition to your own library.

**THE LONG VERSION:** I was in my local bookstore when this book caught my eye from all the way across the room. What appealed to me was the monochromatic design of the cover with its intense color and contrast. As I approached it, and began to flip through the pages, I knew this one was coming home with me.

I was delighted to learn from Chris Haughton's website that this picture book of a hundred words or so took him two years to create from start to finish. There's something to be said for taking your time to produce high quality work like this one.

I really enjoy children's books that have a certain simplicity to them, where all of the words and images have been streamlined. Shh! We Have a Plan definitely fits into this category with a word count of about one hundred. I find there's a certain elegance to anything that can be simplified in this way, much like Apple technology. The natural ease with which you can navigate this book is very appealing.

Even though the pallet begins as monochromatic, the contrast turns it into visual eye candy. The illustrations are straightforward enough that the reader brings his or her own imagination to the story. Are the characters children, a family, friends? Are they Asian? Caucasian? Inuits? Indian? Vikings? Are they boys or girls? I love that Chris Haughton gives his readers credit instead of spelling out every detail of his vision for this book. The characters' faces are delightfully expressive and readers have the opportunity to see themselves in the characters, no matter your gender, age, or racial background.

Enough about the illustrations, what about the story?

The story is clean and straightforward and does not disappoint. I think both children and adults will identify with the scenario. The youngest character is happy to live in the moment and express himself or herself authentically, while the older characters have a socially agreed upon plan. They don't look kindly on the youngest who misses the subtext and doesn't buy in to their scheme. In fact, the objects that the oldest characters are focused on, are the only images in the book that are not in monochrome. The bright, warm colors of these objects focuses your attention where the characters' attention is, yet another stroke of brilliance. Every few pages the author uses a simple set up device to build anticipation so you can't wait to turn the page. Because the words and dialogue follow the characters across the page, they match up with the action, which is a nice effect.

All the details of this book's design were well considered. The end papers, for example, are more than just gorgeous, they are part of the story. They follow the same color scheme and style, but the end papers in the front of the book differ from those in the back of the book based on a turn of events in the story. On the copyright page, the first words are: "Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by

understanding." ~Albert Einstein

This quotation lends itself seamlessly to the story, which allows you to reach this gentle conclusion through the actions of the youngest character without "delivering a message". Let's face it, as adults we've all experienced those moments where our youngest expresses a wisdom to us with such clarity that we feel humbled in their diapered, sticky-cheeked presence. This book captures that moment but in an understated way. Also, I couldn't help but chuckle when I saw the book had been typeset in the font, "SHH".

I know... you may be thinking that I'm over analyzing this seemingly simple picture book, but children notice details, even if they don't use words to talk about them. Illustrations are how young children "read" a book. Long before they learn to decode language they are busy decoding the pictures. So in this way great illustrations make great early readers.

Snatch your copy up now before it starts garnering all the book awards so you can say you knew the book way back when...

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

Toddler glued to the page again

By Jujuberry37

We loved Oh No George, so we got this one from the library in the hope that we will love this one too. It did not disappoint. From the first read, the 2.5 year old was absolutely chuckling, by the end, the words again, again, were said, several more times. Chris Haughton is just pure genius. His illustrations are so simple, but very child friendly, and they just love the sound effects. I read this to our play group and every single toddler sat and listened. That is the sign of one truly engaging read. I won't summarise the story, you will just have to read it.....

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Short story line for the little ones with unexpected humor

By Sunshine on a Rainy Day

In this book, a little person greets a bird, but the three with him say, "shh, we have a plan." The plan is a way to capture the bird. The little one tries again and again to greet the bird while the others try different ways to capture the bird unsuccessfully. The little one finally has the right idea by offering bread crumbs to the bird. More birds flock to the bread crumbs. When the three people try to capture one of the birds, they get chased off causing them to again change plans.

The text in this book is very simplistic which makes it perfect for the very littlest ones and early readers. The story is full of dry humor. The older ones think they have a smart plan, while it is the little one who knows the best way. The illustrations are very different. Most is colored in hues of blue as on the front cover, but the birds are vibrantly colored. The storyline is very short making this less appropriate for older children who would want more. The final page will leave you laughing.

Ages 3-7. The 6-7 year olds will enjoy the dry humor.

See all 83 customer reviews...

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