







**Hear My Roar: A Story of Family Violence** 

Hear My Roar: A Story of Family Violence By Gillian Watts

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Papa loves little Orsa -- but sometimes it's hard to tell.

It seems to Orsa Bear that Papa is angry all the time -- especially after he's had a lot of jack-berry wine. If Papa's not yelling at Mama about the weeds in their garden, he's roaring at Orsa for being clumsy at his chores.

Orsa is scared and doesn't understand why his father acts this way. After a long winter's sleep things get worse, but with the help of Dr. Owl, Mama and Orsa bravely take steps to break the cycle of violence.

Told in an easy-to-read graphic narrative format, Hear My Roar provides a gentle, non-threatening approach to talking with children about family violence. The foreword and afterword help parents, teachers and caregivers use the story with young readers.

This edition of Hear My Roar was adapted from the first edition by Dr. Ty Hochban, who has conducted extensive research in child developmental psychology and the effects of family violence.



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# Hear My Roar: A Story of Family Violence By Gillian Watts Bibliography

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#### **Editorial Review**

#### From School Library Journal

Grade 1—4—The Bear family members love one another. Papa Bear laughs and plays with little Orsa but he also yells, loudly and often. As the pressure of storing food for winter comes on, he begins drinking heavily. The more he drinks, the more violent he becomes. Eventually, Mama seeks help from the family doctor, and she and Orsa go to a shelter. The story is meant to spark conversation and give younger children an outlet with which to seek help or understand their situation. The graphic-novel format makes the story accessible, but some aspects of it are too simplistic. Not all abusers instantly seek help when their family leaves. Not all abusers drink. And yelling or drinking a beer at dinner doesn't necessarily lead to violence. There is a short note on the verso that this is simply one family's story and that there are many different paths to abuse, but children will probably miss that. However, if the book is discussed with a caring adult, it could help a child in need. School libraries should purchase it for their teachers and counselors, but public libraries may not need it.—Sadie Mattox, DeKalb County Public Library, Decatur, GA

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### From **Booklist**

Adapted from a 1994 picture book of the same name, this graphic novel portrays a scenario of family violence. Mama and Papa Bear, along with little Orsa, are happy at the outset of the story, gardening, picnicking, and fishing. Papa shows a hint of his darker side when he gets a little too scary teaching the young bear how to roar, and before long Papa is rarely without a bottle of jack-berry wine. In his drunken furies he smashes plates, cuffs Orsa, and hollers at the slightest provocation, while the apologetic spaces in between his violent outbreaks become more and more rare. Orsa begins to not only feel guilty, but also mimic Papa's behavior, leading Mama to finally get help from a kindly physician owl, who explains that the only one at fault here is Papa. A foreword suggests ways in which adults can use this story to open lines of dialogue and promote sharing about abuse among children. If this well-intentioned but admittedly pedantic graphic novel only helps a single child, it's well worth a purchase. Grades 2-4. --Ian Chipman

#### Review

Told in comic-book style, this book, by Toronto's Gillian Watts, is intended to help children who are exposed to domestic violence discuss their feelings and understand how their family's situation could improve. (*Washington Post* 2009-12-08)

If the book is discussed with a caring adult, it could help a child in need. School libraries should purchase it for their teachers and counselors. (Sadie Mattox, DeKalb County Public Library, Decatu *School Library Journal* 2009-12-01)

This book, a reworking of an earlier book by Ty Hochban, published in 1994, was written to be read by parents and caregivers. The reworking by Gillian Watts and illustrated by Ben Hodson takes the form of a graphic novel. It is hoped that this version will speak directly to young readers and encourage them to talk with someone in a position to help. Graphic novels are certainly hot commodities for accomplished and reluctant readers alike. The 10-year-old in my house has read through it twice. She found it compelling reading and thought it would be very useful for the counselors at her school to have on hand for her peers. I found the message to be direct and hopeful.... I think Hear My Roar would be a very useful title in the hands of school counselors, teachers, health care professionals and social workers. Given the small number of titles on this subject available in a random selection of public libraries in Canada, I think it would be a useful addition to public and school

libraries. Recommended. (Ruth McMahon Canadian Materials 2009-12-04)

I could go on and on about Hear My Roar and the wonderful things this little book can do in the right hands-children's and those that want to help them. (*Kid Lit Reviews* 2012-04-27)

## **Users Review**

#### From reader reviews:

#### **Belinda Timmer:**

What do you ponder on book? It is just for students since they are still students or it for all people in the world, what best subject for that? Only you can be answered for that query above. Every person has different personality and hobby for each other. Don't to be pressured someone or something that they don't desire do that. You must know how great and important the book Hear My Roar: A Story of Family Violence. All type of book are you able to see on many methods. You can look for the internet options or other social media.

#### **Bonnie Abramowitz:**

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book particularly book entitled Hear My Roar: A Story of Family Violence your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a book then become one application form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get before. The Hear My Roar: A Story of Family Violence giving you yet another experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful data for your better life with this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

# Sara Pacheco:

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#### **Michael Clements:**

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