



# The Colors of Us

*By Karen Katz*



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The Colors of Us By Karen Katz

**A positive and affirming look at skin color, from an artist's perspective.**

Seven-year-old Lena is going to paint a picture of herself. She wants to use brown paint for her skin. But when she and her mother take a walk through the neighborhood, Lena learns that brown comes in many different shades.

Through the eyes of a little girl who begins to see her familiar world in a new way, this book celebrates the differences and similarities that connect all people.

Karen Katz created this book for her daughter, Lena, whom she and her husband adopted from Guatemala six years ago.



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## The Colors of Us By Karen Katz Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

PreSchool-Grade 2 Lena's mother is an artist, so she knows whereof she speaks when she insists that there are many different shades of brown. The two take a walk through their neighborhood by way of illustration, and the friends and relatives they meet along the way aptly reinforce Mom's contention. Their skin colors are compared to honey, peanut butter, pizza crust, ginger, peaches, chocolate, and more, conjuring up delicious and beautiful comparisons for every tint. Katz's pencil-and-gouache pictures joyously convey the range of human pigmentation. Positive and useful. Miriam Lang Budin, Chappaqua Public Library, NY  
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From [Booklist](#)

Lena discovers that she and her friends and neighbors are all beautiful shades of brown. "I am the color of cinnamon. Mom says she could eat me up," says Lena. Then she sees everyone else in terms of delicious foods: Mom is the color of French toast. Lena's friend Sonia is the color of creamy peanut butter. Isabella is chocolate brown like the cupcakes they had for her birthday. Lena's best friend, Jo-Jin, is the color of honey. Katz wrote and illustrated the story in affirmation of her adopted Guatemalan daughter and her friends, and the diversity that surrounds them. The message is heavy, but it's made palatable by the loving words and the brightly colored, lively illustrations, which are a combination of collage, gouache, and colored pencil. The pictures of Lena and her friends and city neighbors celebrate the delicious colors of the individual people, all brown, and each one different. *Hazel Rochman*

From Kirkus Reviews

This vibrant, thoughtful book from Katz (Over the Moon, 1997) continues her tribute to her adopted daughter, Lena, born in Guatemala. Lena is ``seven. I am the color of cinnamon. Mom says she could eat me up"; she learns during a painting lesson that to get the color brown, she will have to ``mix red, yellow, black, and white paints." They go for a walk to observe the many shades of brown: they see Sonia, who is the color of creamy peanut butter; Isabella, who is chocolate brown; Lucy, both peachy and tan; Jo-Jin, the color of honey; Kyle, ``like leaves in fall"; Mr. Pellegrino, the color of pizza crust, golden brown. Lena realizes that every shade is beautiful, then mixes her paints accordingly for portraits of her friends``The colors of us!" Bold illustrations celebrate diversity with a child's open-hearted sensibility and a mother's love. (Picture book. 6-8) -- Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Margert Lewis:**

The guide with title The Colors of Us has a lot of information that you can study it. You can get a lot of benefit after read this book. This kind of book exist new understanding the information that exist in this book represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to yo7u to be aware of how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you inside new era of the internationalization. You can read the e-book on the smart phone, so you can read the idea anywhere you want.

**James Dungan:**

Many people spending their time by playing outside together with friends, fun activity together with family or just watching TV the entire day. You can have new activity to shell out your whole day by reading through a book. Ugh, think reading a book really can hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It ok you can have the e-book, taking everywhere you want in your Smart phone. Like The Colors of Us which is finding the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's see.

**Reginald McDade:**

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**Robin Adams:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard that will question when you got scholars? We believe that that issue was given by teacher with their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everyone has different hobby. And you also know that little person similar to reading or as examining become their hobby. You must know that reading is very important as well as book as to be the point. Book is important thing to provide you knowledge, except your teacher or lecturer. You discover good news or update concerning something by book. Amount types of books that can you choose to adopt be your object. One of them is niagra The Colors of Us.

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