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Hannah's Night by Komako Sakai

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One day Hannah wakes up to find it is dark. She slips out of bed and shakes her sister, but she is fast asleep. Hannah sets out to explore the darkened house, accompanied by the family cat. She peeks in on her parents and they are sleeping too.

The story unfolds with delightful scenes on each page. "So even when Hannah gave Shiro some milk and ate some cherries without asking, nobody told her off."

Little sisters love to play with their elder siblings possessions. While her sister is sleeping, Hannah borrows her doll, her music box, her notebook, her colouring pencils and pencil case. When she hears the cooing of a dove outside, she opens the curtains to see the sky getting light. She snuggles up on her sister's bed and falls asleep beside the cat.

Komako Sakai illustrates her night-time story with homely scenes. She uses shades of blue and teal to good effect. Moonbeams, light from the fridge, and creamy skin all provide contrast. An amusing image shows the little girl sitting on the toilet while the cat uses the litter tray.

A gentle story to show young children a different perspective of their homes, and to reassure them that darkness is not frightening. Night-time wanderers will be entranced.

Reviewed by children's author Jean Bennett

About the Author/Illustrator

Komako Sakai was born in Japan in 1966. She studied art in Tokyo before she began illustrating picture books. She is one of Japan's most popular author / illustrators, and has won many awards for her work.

