



## ***Bee-&-Me, a story about friendship by Alison Jay***

**Publisher: Old Barn Books, UK**

**RRP \$27.99**

What a delight! A story about friendship, as set out in its title, but this is no ordinary story. Instead, this is a book without any words after the title page.

Illustrator Alison Jay has told her story in double page full colour spreads, sometimes subdivided as a word book might be into paragraphs. The illustrations draw the reader/viewer in to telling themselves the story by using their eyes and their imagination.

A bee flies in an apartment window. A young girl researches its needs, feeds it, and lets it out, watched by a young boy in the apartment above.

The bee returns, wet and bedraggled after a storm. Again the girl looks up the best action to take. In return the bee takes her on an amazing adventure, introducing her to its world.

This is also a story with an important message – that bees are vital to the continuation of life on our planet. The young reader is advised on the final page how each one of us can help with BEE AWARE! An interesting list of do's and don'ts regarding bees and their environment.

This book without words is for anyone with the imagination to follow the story line, primarily the young reader, perhaps 3-7. *Bee-&-Me* could also be used to encourage children to try telling a story without words, especially children with an artistic bent.

**Illustrator's website**

[www.childrensillustrators.com/ajay](http://www.childrensillustrators.com/ajay)

**Reviewed by Chris Wright**

