



[Home](#) > The Baby in the Hat: an early romance

The Baby in the Hat: an early romance

Books Reviewed:

[The Baby in the Hat: an early romance](#) [1]

Issue:

[174](#) [2]

Reviewer:

[Brian Alderson](#) [3]

~~Not a Choice:~~

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

5

The hero of this pictorial romance, and his best friend (the narrator) are to be found on the half-title fishing. On their way home, past the title-page, they see a baby about to tumble from an upstairs window whom Our Hero catches in his hat. The half-crown reward that follows pays for a trip to London and that eventuates in a sequence of maritime adventures (over all of six double-page spreads) before the Happy Return and Our Hero's marriage to Guess-Whom. The Romance is told in a near-versified prose, with occasional interjections from sundry birds, mermaids and mariners, all matched in beautifully with André Amstutz's racy watercolours. There is a cod eighteenth-century air about the tale (not least in its comic colophon and its use of a digitized version of the famous Fell printing types) and the zest of the whole exercise allows one to forgive some fearful anachronisms.

Running Order:

64

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[1] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/the-baby-in-the-hat-an-early-romance>

[2] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/174>

[3] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/member/brian-alderson>