I’d Know You Anywhere, My Love

Liz Kazandzhy
No matter what this child pretends to be—rhinoceros, camel, raccoon, or giraffe—his mother would know him anywhere. Whether it’s the special gleam in his eyes, the unique sound of his feet, or his one-of-a-kind happy dance that gives him away, his loving and caring mother can always pick him out. As the opening lines read, “There are things about you quite unlike any other... things always known by your father or mother. So if you decide to be different one day, no worries... I’d know you anyway.”

One of many heartwarming books written by Nancy Tillman, I’d Know You Anywhere, My Love is a classic that can be enjoyed over and over by adults and children alike. Everything about this book is brilliant. The illustrations, first created digitally and then touched up with chalk, watercolor, and pencil, are crisp, beautiful, and imaginative. (If you look close, you’ll find the narrator highlighted with the color red on every page!) The lucid text rhymes smoothly, rolls gently off the tongue, and is placed creatively on each page, giving variety to the text-illustration balance. The sweet message is one of unconditional love, personal worth and uniqueness, and the security that comes from being known and cared about. Also, the idea of pretending to be an animal is extremely natural and fun for children, making the book that much more relatable. Finally, this board book version is sturdy and sure to last a long time, which is great considering the kind of use it’s sure to get among its readers. This is a must-have book which has the power to not only express and illustrative love but to strengthen it as well.