Barely Behaving Daughters

Bailey Ondricek

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Barely Behaving Daughters is a strange little alphabet book in black, white, and red that details alliterative misbehaviors of naughty little girls. Each page of this small, glossy paperback has a blood red alphabet letter standing for the name of the girl and animal featured on the page. Each girl has teased, neglected, or eaten the animal in some way. The ‘H’ page, for example, reads, “H is for the Hannahs who halved a hyena.” The accompanying black-and-white illustrations are whimsical in tone and without any gore.

This book provides a stark foil to the many princess books on the market targeting young girls. The messy, naughty girls in the story are not intended to be role models; rather, they show humor and fantasy from a much messier perspective. This book will not be every reader’s cup of tea. The violence on certain pages may be concerning for some readers. However, for those seeking more diverse interpretations of femininity to present to their young daughters, this book may prove a good fit.

*Contains mild violence.