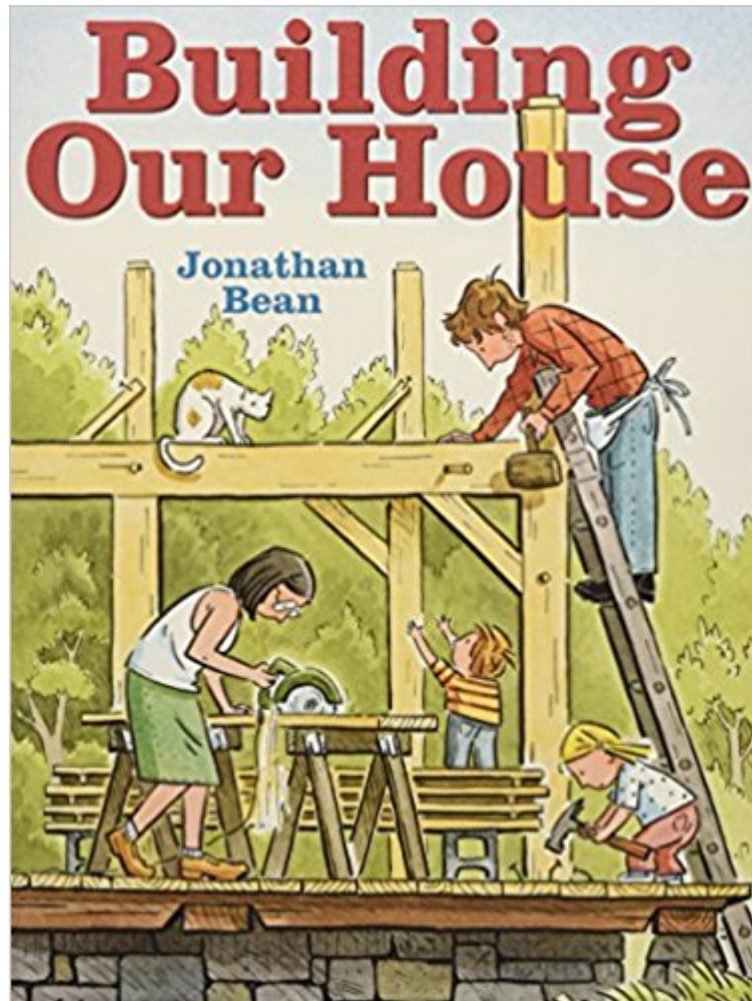




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# Building Our House



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## Synopsis

A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice Winner of the 2013 Boston Globe Horn Book Award for Best Picture Book A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2013 A New York Times Book Review Notable Children's Book of 2013 In this unique construction book for kids who love tools and trucks, readers join a girl and her family as they pack up their old house in town and set out to build a new one in the country. Mom and Dad are going to make the new house themselves, from the ground up. From empty lot to finished home, every stage of their year-and-a-half-long building project is here. And at every step their lucky kids are watching and getting their hands dirty, in page after page brimming with machines, vehicles, and all kinds of house-making activities! As he imagines it through the eyes of his older sister, *Building Our House* is Jonathan Bean's retelling of his own family's true experience, and includes an afterword with photographs from the author's collection.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 820L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR); 1 edition (January 8, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374380236

ISBN-13: 978-0374380236

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.5 x 310.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 44 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #39,437 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Country Life](#) #168 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art](#) #1556 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life](#)

Age Range: 3 - 6 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 1

## Customer Reviews

An author's note reveals that this picture book is based on personal experience, as Bean's parents built their own house when he was a young child. Here we follow a mother, father, two children (and, eventually, a new baby) over the course of a year and a half through a harsh winter and plenty of lumber pickups all the way to move-in day

at their new abode. Told from the point of view of the oldest child, a girl, the challenges and rewards involved in constructing from scratch become clear. The kids are not exempt from the do-it-yourself action, and they happily help “fill the loud mixing machine.” Bean (At Night, 2007) makes use of every inch of the tall trim size here, filling his pages to the brim with heavily lined illustrations of bustling people and activity—often as a series of four vignettes across a spread. What’s heartwarming throughout is the depiction of a tight-knit family (“My family makes up a strong crew of four”). The author’s concluding personal photos add to the loving feel. Grades K-3. --Ann Kelley

“Children ages 3 to 10 who already like tools and diggers aren’t the only ones who will respond to the warmth and optimism in these clear, detailed, gently color-washed pages.” —The Wall Street Journal “Shot through with pioneer spirit . . . Bean’s terrific illustrations show a loving family, living in a mobile home as they gather lumber and pour concrete . . . Children will enjoy the comforting solidity of shoring up foundations and sawing strong boards.” —The New York Times Book Review (Editors’ Choice) “\* Raise the roof for this picture book. It’s something special.” —Kirkus Reviews, starred review “\* Lovingly told, this captivating tale will help satisfy a child’s curiosity of what it takes to create a building from scratch.” —School Library Journal, starred review “\* Bean creates an engaging story as well as a glimpse into a warm family setting.” —The Horn Book, starred review “A warm look at the nuts and bolts of building a house and turning it into a home.” —Publishers Weekly “Wonderfully detailed, often humorous.” —BCCB “What’s heartwarming throughout is the depiction of a tight-knit family (“My family makes up a strong crew of four”).” —Booklist

I found this book at the library a few weeks ago. We read it almost every night we had it checked out. Like the family in the story we packed up all our things and moved to the country last spring. We are in the process of buying 20 acres which we will be building a house ourselves on next spring. I also really like the illustrations and the book is printed on some paper that is similar to drawing paper or watercolor paper. At the end of the book the author includes some photos and a little information on his real life experience as a kid having his family build their own house. Of course we had to buy the book we love it so much!

Gosh this book was a hit in our house, and not because we're a family of builders. (On the contrary...) This sweet picture book about the adventure of building a house completely fascinated our 3-1/2 year old granddaughter and led to many, many re-readings and many, many questions about plumbing and wiring. (I had to go to the internet to answer some of her questions.) Factually very interesting for a small kid, but more than that, a quite charming description of the author's own experiences as a kid helping his family build their home. (Though he turned the narrator into a girl-- not quite sure why that was necessary.) But so sweet, so charming, so heartfelt. Loved it.

My 3 year old adores this book! The story is engaging and the illustrations are bright and interesting. It's fun to watch the house and family grow over the course of the book.

This was just a delightful book & lovely story. My 3.5 year old grandson is very much into building things & construction but he has moved passed the basic hammer & bang type of story. Each page not only told a story with words but there was a second story going on with the illustrations. We read it 2 times back & back & he couldn't wait to bring it home & read it some more!! The bucket truck was a huge hit, because both daddy & Papa work on one. Once my grandson brought the book home, I also heard from my daughter, telling me how much she loved this book!!

A charming concept book about a young family building a house in the country. Great watercolor/pen illustrations add to the charm. the book reinforces health family life and planning. there are some details in the pictures that parallel the text.

We LOVE this book. It's such a sweet story, with great illustrations - it's been one of my 3-year-old son's favorite books for the past several months, and we read it nightly... and I'm still enjoying it as well! We've given it to several friends for birthdays, as well, and everyone always raves about it. My son loves to look for all the little details - watching the mom's belly grow, looking for the kittens when they arrive, looking at the endpapers with the before and after of the land, etc. Highly recommend this book.

This is the best book ever. My burgeoning builder son loves this book. We have read it so many times. It does a great job of explaining all the steps of building a house and creating an interesting story too.

Both my boys (3 and 6) love this book and I enjoy reading it to them. It is nicely illustrated and the story is engaging. Throughout the story there are notable, though not directly mentioned, things that my kids love to point out, like the cat and the mom's belly getting bigger (she's pregnant). Overall, it's a fun and educational story.

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