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# The Meeting (Mr. Badger And Mrs. Fox)



## Synopsis

When a hunter's dog chases Mrs Fox and her daughter, Ginger, out of their home, the Fox family hide in the tunnel of Mr Badger, his two squabbling sons and his toddler daughter. The result is the story of how they form a blended family.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: GN280L (What's this?)

Series: Mr. Badger and Mrs. Fox (Book 1)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: National Geographic School Pub; 1 edition (June 23, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0761356312

ISBN-13: 978-0761356318

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 8.5 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #898,500 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Tolerance](#) #482 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Foxes & Wolves](#) #789 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mammals](#)

Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

## Customer Reviews

**\*Starred Review\*** This beautifully painted and sweetly told tale is the first in the Mr. Badger and Mrs. Fox series and tells how two different families meet, overcome suspicion of each other, and work to combine resources. Mr. Badger has his paws full caring for a baby girl and her two older brothers, one of whom is a Peter Rabbit-like mischief maker. Mrs. Fox and her daughter happen into the badger burrow when their own is invaded by scary dogs. Rendered as a beginning graphic novel, the story and characters are presented with plenty of heart and soul: expressive anthropomorphic faces and postures and rich dialogue require and reward engagement. Watercolor panels vary in size on folio pages, and balloons contain an easy-to-read font. Although the story is self-contained in this book, this promising start of a series translated from the French will leave American readers wanting the next story. Quality translation and art production, along with a

hardcover binding that lies flat, are details that suggest this book can be a popular mainstay in collections for a long time. A delight on many levels, it is also big enough to share with small groups and detailed enough to make for a leisurely individual reading experience. Grades K-3. --Francisca Goldsmith

Brigitte Luciani was born in Hanover, Germany. After getting her masters degree in literature, she worked in a variety of jobs including journalism, editing, and photo research. In 1994 she moved to France, where she began writing books for kids and adults. Around the same time, she first discovered graphic novels, and marveled at the possibilities of a format that has been neglected in Germany. After a long time searching for the perfect collaborators for a foray into comics, she teamed up with the artist Colonel Moutarde on *l'Espace d'un soir*, *Comédie d'amour*, and *Histoires cachées* (Delcourt) and with Eve Tharlet for the *Monsieur Blaireau et Madame Renarde* series (Dargaud). Eve Tharlet was born in Alsace but grew up in Germany. She took courses in printmaking and screen-printing in Berlin then continued her studies in illustration in Strasbourg. She has worked in all types of illustration for children, including miniature books and calendars, games and magazines, schoolbooks and classic fairy tales. In twenty years, she has illustrated more than 150 books for children. She is married and has two sons, and now lives in the hilly countryside of Brittany.

This story does not make good use of the graphic novel format. The pictures, while beautifully drawn, don't do much to move the story along. The story is told primarily through speech bubble dialogue, which most of the action taking place off screen. The writing is not very good and there is also not much of a story here. My daughter enjoys graphic novels, but this bored both of us. It is also hard to tell the characters apart. The only difference between the mom and daughter fox is size and the badger brothers look nearly identical. Disappointed. This book was a waste of money.

Art work is well done. Story line doesn't flow that well. I wasn't impressed with the writing. The moral message of the story is a good lesson, but it's written in a way that really knocks you over the head with it, instead of letting the lesson come through more naturally.

Very enjoyable Great read for elementary children grades 1-3

"Mr. Badger And Mrs. Fox, v.1: The Meeting"Written by Brigitte LucianiIllustrated by Eve

Tharlet(Lerner Books/Graphic Universe, 2010)-----A beautifully illustrated, emotionally resonant story of two different families -- one fox, one badger -- that come together as one. A gentle parable about loss and remarriage, this was originally published in France a few years ago, and is nicely translated, with the handsome, richly detailed artwork kept at its original, magazine-sized scale. The story features four children, the three badger children, Bristle, Grub, and baby Berry, who live with their dad in a cozy burrow, and newcomer Ginger, the daughter of Mrs. Fox, a refugee of a recent foxhunt. The Badgers welcome the Foxes as guests -- temporary at first, and then more permanently as the adults get better acquainted. With the kids, though, it's not so simple. The badger children, who already bicker with each other (as siblings will) find it hard to share their space -- as well as their stuff and their dad -- with a new kid, and Ginger feels weird about it too...Like something out of a "Leave It To Beaver" episode, the children cook up a kooky scheme to pry their parents apart -- it backfires, and in the process the children realize they all actually get along pretty well. What's great about this simple story is how it strikes such a perfect tone: the children are, on the whole, really nice kids, but they are also flawed and say and think and do mildly inappropriate things -- their negative reaction to the new situation isn't hysterical or exaggerated, it builds slowly and unfolds subtly, as does the relationship between the two parents. It's also nice how low-key their union is portrayed -- it's not overtly romantic, but by the end of this first volume, it's clear that they are talking about marrying each other. This is a lovely book -- a well-made comic with a good story and a nice message. (Joe Six, ReadThatAgain children's book reviews)

Bristle and Grub live with their father Mr. Badger and their baby sister Berry in a tidy little badger burrow. But one night Mrs. Fox and her daughter Ginger appear suddenly in their home. The Fox family lost its home when a hunter found their burrow. Mr. Badger and Mrs. Fox quickly hit it off and decide that their two families should become one. But Ginger, Bristle, and Grub don't agree! Tidy, careful, slow badgers and hotheaded, rowdy, messy foxes should not be living together. So they concoct a plan to show their parents just how wrong this moving-in idea is, but their idea might just prove the opposite. Luciani and Tharlet's graphic novel, originally published in France in 2006 as *Monsieur Blaireau et Madame Renarde 1: La recontre*, is a fun beginning to a promising series for early readers. Though some of the language might require parental assistance, not too much of it will be over kids' heads. They'll like that Ginger, Bristle, and Grub are spunky, realistic stand-ins for human children. The animal step-siblings bicker and complain, but also come to appreciate each other. Ginger has a harder time with that, as she was previously an only child who was used to

having her mother to herself. Bristle and Grub are already used to picking on each other, so they don't have as much difficulty ignoring Ginger's prickly moods. Tharlet's art is warm, fitting the gentle story. Her color palette is foresty greens and blues and browns, so Ginger's orange-red and the badgers' black, white, and grey stand out nicely. Simple square and rectangular panels are bordered by white and contain white text bubbles, so everything is easy to read. Graphic Universe, an imprint of Lerner, has published this in an oversized format with a sturdy library bound binding and an eye-catching cover. This is a very nice addition to the world of comics for kids. The plot is believable and has a nice message without preaching at readers, which also makes it a unique choice for parents looking for books on stepfamilies.-- Snow Wildsmith

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