

**Subj:** bBABY BOOKNOTES  
**Date:** 8/18/2004 7:25:05 PM Central Standard Time  
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BABY

Patricia MacLachlan

#### CHARACTERS

*\*Papa – tap dances at night on the coffee table, stubborn and quiet during the day, editor of the island newspaper, remembered by his big strong hands,*

*\*Lalo Baldelli – friend of Larkin's, his parents had a hotel on the island, always began his sentences with "so", not afraid of anything*

*\*Byrd – grew up in a grand house with pillars and many porche, could have been a queen, seventy years old with white hair, wore fancy stockings*

*\*Mrs. Bloom – tourist who came every summer, bringing her beach umbrella, her chair, and her little hairy dog whose full name was Craig Walter.*

*\*Willoughby's – another family who came to the island*

*\*Mrs. Minifred – school librarian, loved wonderous words, loved the beginning of books and the ends*

*\*Sophie – baby left on the note in a basket with a note attached which reaed "This is Sophie. She is almost a year old and she is good.", liked carrots and didn't like milk, hated baths, napped with Byrd in the afternoon*

*\*Mama – Lily,*

*\*Dr. Fortunato – nickname Dr. Unfortunato because his wife talked too much*

*\*Portia Pinter – in class she reads about her wish for the world which includes world peace and a home for stay animals*

*\*Rebel – janitor, loved words, came to the island when he was eighteen and never left...that was fifteen years ago, had a mysterious tattoo on his arm "Wild Eunice"*

*Loved poetry*

*\*...does a character have a memory of a blue blanket in a basket that pricks her bare legs*

*\*...does a character's Papa dance in the evening, when all day he was quiet and stubborn?*

*\*At what time does the ferry whistle blow every evening? 6pm*

*\*...does a character have six Ritz crackers with cheddar cheese (extra sharp), and a glass of whiskey every evening and than begins to dance? Papa*

*\*Songs mentioned during this story: "Me and My Shadow", "East Side, West Side", "I Got Rhythm",*

*\*What did it mean when there was more paint on Mama than there was on the canvas? Mama was restless, she couldn't concentrate*

*\*...did a character wear fancy stockings, black with jewels that sparkled as she moved?\**

*\*...does a family wait for the last ferry to leave, because that means peace and quiet/*

*\*...does a musical group play "Roll Out The Barrel" and "Amazing Grace" as people are getting ready to leave the island? Griffey and his musical group (Rollie, Arthur, old man Brick, Griffey)*

*\*...does a girl's mother always cry at the end of summer, or at the end of anything?*

*\*...was a fourth of July parade led by a goat and the sewer pump truck?*

*\*...did a character love the descriptions of sunsets and death?*

*\*...does a girl begin the new schoolyear wearing a plaid dress?*

*\*...does a character have flashbacks of her early childhood throughout the book?*

*\*...does a character say that any baby who is loved know how to play "patty cake"*

*\*...does a father dance for the little children when they can't get to sleep?*

*\*...does a man try to teach a baby "rock, paper, scissors"?*

*\*...is it very difficult for a family to remember that a little girl is not theirs?*

*\*...does a baby take her first step during the second week of school?*

*\*...did a family buy a little girl red boots and a snowsuit, even though the snow never lasted in the winter?*

*\*...is a character trying to understand why her parents never named her dead baby brother, who only lived one day?*

*\*...does a character have a memory of something red, a tiny teardrop of red that glowed?*