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Rhyming Picture Book Ages 4-7
661 Words

THE SILLIEST OF BILLIES
(Sample)
By Cici Drzik

Ever since there was a Billie–

(Page 1)

–she’d always been very silly.

Illo: A newborn hospital portrait, the baby is winking and sticking her tongue out

(Page 2)

From go, she’d never miss a chance
to do a silly little dance.

Illo: Infant Billie doing a little dance while having her diaper changed

(Page 3)

A dance for her bottle
A dance for the cat
A dance for when wearing
A shoe as a hat

Illo: An illustration for each dance, we see her age from infant to toddler to ready-for-preschool as the dances progress

(Page 4)

A dance for bath time
A dance for her toy
A dance for Grandma
A dance for JOY!

(Page 5)

Grandpa said, ‘from here to Philly–
-there’d *never* been a sillier Billie!

Illo: Parents and grandparents in a living room gathered around the goofy ready-for-preschooler cheering her on as she gives a performance–Grandpa is stretching his arms wide.

(Page 6-7)

But sometimes she could be a bit shy–

Illo: Billie being pushed in a grocery cart and using a rolled up flyer as a spyglass

(Page 8)

–hiding her silly if a stranger walked by.

Illo: Same, but there is a stranger walking by with their basket and Billie has shrunk down to be small and demure

(Page 9)

On the first day of school she was feeling plain scared.

Illo: Father approaches Billie's bed where she appears to be completely under the blankets

(Page 10)

She tried to hide so she'd be spared.

Illo: Father pulls the blanket back revealing a decoy made of several stuffed animals

(Page 11)

Silly Billie! School is fun!
You'll learn and play with everyone!
Come on out. It's time to get ready.
If you're feeling nervous
you can bring your teddy.

Illo: Father is lifting the edge of the blanket to see where Billie is hiding under the bed with her toy flashlight and her favorite teddy bear

(Page 12)

But DADDY! I can't! Billie said with a sniff
There's just too too many 'what ifs'

Illo: She's climbed out and stands at the father's knee

(Page 13)

What if my hair is an awful fright?
What if my lunch box isn't quite right?
What if no one wants to play pretend?
What if I never make any friends?

Illo: Several illustrations of Billie's hugely expressive face for each 'what if' concluding with a more subtle and genuinely sad one for the final line

(Page 14-15)

Is that what you're scared of my little elf?
Just be your sweet and silly self!
That's really all you need to do.
There's lots of cool lunch boxes,
but there's only one you.

Illo: Father comforts her as she sits on his knee

(Page 16)

So Billie got brave,
and then she got dressed—
—with SIX bows in her hair!
The cat was impressed.

(Page 17)

She made it through drop off
then it came to pass—

(Page 18)

-there was *another* Billy in her class.

Illo: Circle time, Billie sits next to a small boy wearing glasses. They eye each other suspiciously

*This is just a sample of the manuscript,
please email if you are interested in reading the whole thing.*