



## Please, Puppy, Please

By Spike Lee, Tonya Lewis Lee

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**Please, Puppy, Please** By Spike Lee, Tonya Lewis Lee

**Away from the gate,  
puppy puppy, please, puppy.  
Oh wait, puppy, wait,  
please, please, please,  
please....**

In page after page of tail-wagging fun, Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Spike Lee and his wife, Beacon Award-winning producer Tonya Lewis Lee, take a close-up look at what happens when a couple of high-energy toddlers meet their match in an adventurous pup who has no plans of letting up.

Irresistible illustrations by Coretta Scott King Award winner Kadir Nelson unleash countless memorable moments of toddlerhood, and puppyhood, which families with four-legged friends will enjoy over and over again.

**A Children's Book-of-the-Month**

**Club Main Selection**

**A Black Expressions Book Club**

**Featured Selection**

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**Please, Puppy, Please** By Spike Lee, Tonya Lewis Lee **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #26309 in Books
- Brand: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers
- Published on: 2005-11-01
- Released on: 2005-11-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.00" h x .40" w x 10.00" l, .93 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 32 pages

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### Editorial Review

#### From School Library Journal

PreSchool-Grade 1—Two young children celebrate the joy and challenges of life with their new pet. Puppy is exuberant, energetic, and as undisciplined as can be. The kids are thrilled with their uncontrollable new friend, chasing him, playing with him, and trying to get him to behave. In the spare text, the authors' repetitive dialogue rings true, echoing the sounds of children's excited screams and squeals. Nelson's illustrations are full of movement, switching perspective often to create a frenzied atmosphere. The children and puppy are appealing, dominating each page and keeping the focus clearly on the action. This book would be fun to read to a group, small or large, and the text is easy enough for beginning readers.—*Mary Hazelton, Elementary Schools in Warren & Waldoboro, ME*

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#### From Booklist

PreS-Gr. 1. Reprising the theme from their earlier collaboration, *Please, Baby, Please* (2002), filmmaker Lee and his wife, a producer, turn the tables by putting the toddlers in charge this time. Although adults reading this aloud will smile knowingly as the young African American boy and girl plead in vain for their puppy to listen to directions, young readers and listeners may not appreciate the irony. Even so, they'll enjoy the exuberant pup's antics, which Nelson captures from a variety of perspectives in colorful, energetic illustrations: the puppy leaps into the air, rolls in mud, bounds out of his bath, and shakes water all over himself, the children, and the cat. The conscientious youngsters chase him, imploring their "baby" to behave. Picture books featuring children of color that don't make ethnicity the focus of the story are needed in all collections; this one is particularly accessible and fun. *Diane Foote*

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#### About the Author

**Spike Lee** is one of the most prominent and influential media figures today. His films include the critically acclaimed *School Daze*; Academy Award nominee *Do the Right Thing*; *Malcolm X*; *Clockers*; and *25th Hour*. Born in Atlanta, Spike attended Morehouse College and NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, where he earned his master of fine arts degree in film production. Spike and his wife are the authors of *Please, Baby, Please*, their first picture book with Simon & Schuster. They live in New York City with their two children.

**Tonya Lewis Lee** is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College and the University of Virginia School of Law. As a children's television producer she has worked with Disney, Nickelodeon, and Noggin/The N, where she was the executive producer of the award-winning documentary *I Sit Where I Want: The Legacy of Brown v. Board of Education* and the critically acclaimed miniseries *Miracle's Boys*. She is also the author of *Gotham Diaries*, her first novel.

Kadir Nelson is an award-winning American artist whose works have been exhibited in major national and international publications, institutions, art galleries, and museums. Nelson is the illustrator of many beloved, award-winning, and bestselling picture books including, *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*, winner of the Coretta Scott King and Robert F. Sibert Award; *Thunder Rose*, written by Jerdine Nolen, which received a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Award; *Ellington Was Not a Street*, written by Ntozake Shange, which received a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award; *Hewitt Anderson's Great Big Life*, written by Jerdine Nolen, which won the 2005 Society of Illustrators Gold Medal; and *Mama Miti: Wangari Maathai and the Trees of Kenya* by Donna Jo Napoli called "stunning" by *Kirkus Reviews* in a starred review. He is also the illustrator of Deloris Jordan and Roslyn M. Jordan's *Salt in His Shoes* and

Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee's *Please, Baby, Please* and *Please, Puppy, Please*. Kadir Nelson lives in Los Angeles.

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