

Why Am I Here?

by Adam Brown



For Annie

Merry Christmas!

Love, Dad

December 25, 2007





Annie was a sweet girl who loved to run and play. She also loved to ask questions – but she did not always understand the answers.

- 1 -





One day, Annie and her Daddy went to the park.

Daddy sat on the bench – but Annie wanted to run, and play, and ask questions.

- 2 -



1 THE DOG



While Annie played she saw a big, furry, red dog. She was so curious she skipped right over to talk to him.

ANNIE
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

DOG
I am here to run. I am here to bark. I am here to play.

- 3 -





Annie did not understand.

ANNIE
Why don't you meow like a cat? Why don't you fly like a bird?

DOG
Because that's not why I'm here.

... and he ran, and he barked, and he played.



II THE FLOWER



Annie ran to play on the slide. When she slid to the ground, she found a pretty pink flower.

ANNIE
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

FLOWER
I am here to grow. I am here to smell sweet. I am here to reach for the sun.

-5-





Annie did not understand.

ANNIE
Why don't you hop like a bunny? Why don't you climb like a monkey?

FLOWER
Because that's not why I'm here.

... and it smiled in the sunshine, and it did smell sweet.





Annie ran off to climb the jungle bars. As she climbed, a little blue bird landed on the bar.

ANNIE
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

BIRD
I am here to sing. I am here to fly. I am here to build a nest for my eggs.



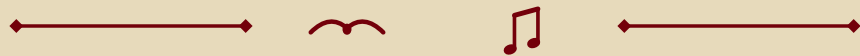


Annie did not understand.

ANNIE
Why don't you bark like a dog? Why don't you smell sweet like a flower?

BIRD
Because that's not why I'm here.

... and she flew to her nest to sing a sweet song.

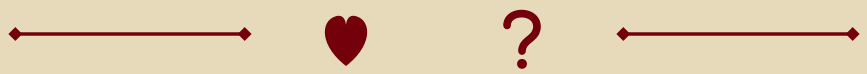




Annie jumped down and found her Daddy. He was not on the bench. It was time to go home.

ANNIE
WHY AM I HERE?

DADDY
You are here to live, and to love, and to ask questions.





Annie did not understand.

ANNIE
If I am here to ask questions, why don't I understand?

DADDY
Because that's not why you're here.





The dog barked, and the flower grew, and the bird sang — and Daddy held Annie's hand as they walked home together.

- 11 -

THE END

Written and illustrated by Adam Brown for his daughter, Annie.

*Originally a hand-drawn picture book, Christmas 2007.
Re-bound as a graphic novel — same drawings, same heart.*