



The Christmas Boot

Lisa Wheeler , Michael Glenn Monroe (illustrator)

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Lonely Hannah is delighted to discover a warm black boot as she gathers kindling in the forest. A poor woman, she doesn't have proper shoes on her cold feet. "Glory be! I only wish I had your mate," she says to the boot, and the next morning, to her great surprise, there is not just one boot but two sitting by her bed! More wishes bring even better gifts—but the best is still to come: A visitor arrives at her door—a man with a big white beard, wearing a red suit and only one boot. Who could this magical visitor be? Santa Claus, of course! And he has one more surprise in store for Hannah: She wakes up the next morning to find a new puppy waiting for her!

The Christmas Boot Details

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From Reader Review The Christmas Boot for online ebook

Debbie says

A beautifully illustrated Christmas Story. Loved this sweet book and the Wonderful surprise at the end.

Alex Fisher says

This picture book is about a lady named Hannah Greyweather who lives deep in a forest. One day she finds a black boot and tries it on. It fits her and continues to wear it throughout the day to keep her foot warm. She then wishes she had the other boot before going to bed. She wakes up the next morning with the second boot and then wishes for mittens at the end of the day. She wakes up to mittens and wishes for a lot of things that would make her life luxurious. A mysterious man then comes to her new luxurious house and asks if she has his boot. This man is Santa and so when he puts on the boot, all the other stuff goes away. Before he leaves, Santa asks Hannah if she wants anything. She said I just want someone to talk to but a pair of boots and mittens will do and they pop up on her house. Before she goes to bed she finds a puppy in one of her boots and it ends with Santa saying Merry Christmas. Overall, it is a pretty well thought out book with beautiful art. I just did not like the your wish will always come true aspect though it was cute.

Tina says

I'm the biggest, mushiest sap there ever has been! This is such a sweet story - made me tear up!

Lisa D says

What a beautiful book! Loved the illustrations! May win awards!

Abigail says

Gathering kindling wood for her fire one day, Hannah, an impoverished older woman living in solitude in the deep woods, comes upon a shiny black boot, and putting it on, finds it a perfect fit. Wondering about the boot's mate as she goes to sleep, she is surprised to discover a matching pair waiting for her the next morning. Her wish for warm mittens is likewise granted, as is her desire for a fine home. But when a roly-poly stranger in a red suit shows up to claim the boot, and she returns it to its rightful owner, Hannah's blessings disappear. Or do they...?

A sweet new holiday holiday picture-book featuring a heartwarming tale and beautiful illustrations, [The Christmas Boot](#) highlights a number of important ideas - that companionship is preferable to wealth; that the satisfaction of basic needs is sometimes a surer route to happiness than excessive material indulgence; that we shouldn't keep what doesn't belong to us, even when we are in need ourselves - while also delivering an entertaining Santa story. The artwork by Caldecott medalist Jerry Pinkney is immensely appealing, capturing Hannah's joyful experiences perfectly. Recommended to anyone looking for new Christmas stories featuring

both morality and magic.

Hannah Jones says

While gathering wood on a cold snowy day, Hannah Greyweather came across one blank boot. Her foot was cold so she slipped it on. Although it looked bigger than her foot, it fit just perfect! On her walk back to her tiny shack, her left foot was awfully warm. That night, she said to the boot "I only wish I had your mate." In the morning, a second boot appeared! This time, both feet were kept nice and warm while she gathered wood. That night, she said to the boots "If I had mittens as toasty warm, I would be the happiest woman in the world." That morning, a pair of red mittens were inside her boots! Talking to the mittens, she said "Will it give me a fluffy feather bed? A fabulous feast? A big fancy house?" When she came back from doing her chores, her tiny shack became a fancy house, filled with a fabulous feast and a feather bed. Although that was great, it wasn't Hannah's style. Suddenly, she heard a knock on the door. She opened it and saw a man in a red suit with a long white beard that was looking for his missing boot. When he asked if he could give Hannah anything, she said "someone to talk to. But warm boots and a pair of mittens would be mighty fine." Suddenly, a pair of boots and mittens appeared. The man went on his way, and when Hannah took a closer look at her boots, there was a puppy waiting inside.

Stephanie Chiaro says

The Christmas Boot is a story about a poor, lonely woman, who finds a boot in the woods one day. On her way home from making her daily trip into the woods for various needs (today, it was for fire wood), she finds this black boot with nobody in sight, so knowing how cold her own feet were (she was so poor, she did not even own boots nor mittens), she slides the boot onto her foot. To her surprise, a once boot which was too large for her foot, conforms to her shoe size, and now fits perfectly. She limps home and before she goes to sleep that night, which for a second boot, which appears the next morning. She happily does her chores warmly that day, and as the night concludes, wishes for a pair of mittens, which also show up the next morning and fit perfectly. That morning, she jokes about a fancy house and what was to come next before leaving, so happily, to do her chores. On her way home, a giant, fancy house awaits her as she gawks at the site. When she enters the house, she realizes the house doesn't fit her perfectly like the boots and the mittens. Then she receives a knock on the door. It was Santa. She, having never before had company, invites him inside and he politely asks for his boot back. She gives it to him and when he puts it on, it conforms to his size. Everything she had wished for disappears, and goes back to the way it once was. Santa apologized and asked what she really wanted in life. She told him a friend and warm boots and mittens. He gave her the tangible items and went on his way. As she climbed into bed that night, she realized there was a puppy in one of the boots.

I found this book very sweet. It truly captures the idea of Christmas magic. I think the only thing I didn't quite like about it was the fact that the woman in the story was much older than I had expected. Typically, children's book authors try to focus on main characters who are children, to connect the reader to the story better, and choosing to feature a middle- to old-aged woman, loses that connection that could have easily been made with an orphaned child, for example. Even if child readers cannot connect to the "orphaned" portion of that type of main character, the fact that the main character would still be a child, would allow children to understand "they're somewhat like me." I think that's the only place the story fell short, besides maybe adding more detail into the setting. For example, I wondered where this took place. Lots of Christmas stories have been published, and they all have similar themes, arriving to "Christmas is magical," and I think the author ended up at the place, but the way she arrived there was unique. It wasn't a typical story where everything is either gumdrops and rainbows, nor was it a Grinch/ Scrooge story either, and so I liked that.

To recap, although children would have a difficult time connecting to this character and certain details like setting were never addressed, The Christmas Boot is a sweet story and arrives at the idea of "magical Christmas," in a unique way.

Jennifer says

Wonderful book sharing a message of kindness and generosity!

Staciel says

Probably my favorite thing to do right after Thanksgiving is visit my local indie bookshop and read all of the wonderful holiday/Christmas books that they display before taking 'the one' home with me.

This book was my 2016 selection...it beat out two other great books (which may still come home & be reviewed later), and has been read and enjoyed by every member of my family. And when my husband will sit down and read a picture book all by himself-- that is saying something.

A magical Santa story that focuses on the few simple things that we need to be truly happy.

Elizabeth says

A lovely story about kindness/generosity being rewarded.

La Coccinelle says

I was quite disappointed that the synopsis gave absolutely everything away! That may have coloured my opinion of this book somewhat.

This is basically a story of a lonely old woman who finds one of Santa's magic boots in the forest on Christmas morning. (No idea how he could've lost it, unless he took off his boots in the sleigh on the way home.) As she idly makes wishes, they just happen to come true, until she's wished herself a fancy house and a great big feast, all without really meaning to. When Santa finally shows up to retrieve his boot, she tells him what she really wants: someone to talk to. Now, why this is Santa's responsibility, I have no idea; she appears to be living out in the middle of nowhere by choice. In any case, Santa gives her a puppy. I guess that makes a sort of sense; after all, she did say she wanted someone to talk *to*, not someone to talk *with*.

I have mixed feelings about the illustrations. Some of them I liked, but others I found a little creepy. Hannah herself doesn't always look the same from page to page, and that added to the feeling that the pictures were a little uneven. The snowman looked downright evil, but the illustrations of the fancy house were pretty. I'm really not sure what to make of the visual side of this book.

Overall, this wasn't terrible, but I didn't love it. I'm sure it'll have its audience. (Although, I would

recommend reading it or giving it to kids without telling them what it's about; it would've been a lot more fun to discover the twists and turns while reading, rather than having them all spoiled before I even opened the book.)

Susan says

WONDERFUL!! Christmas in a book!

Jason says

I gotta tell you, I wasn't expecting the story to go the way it did at all! It does not appear to be a retelling, so it seems this deliciously original Christmas story is brand new. It takes a classic fairy tale element and mixes in Santa Claus to glorious effect. Pinkney's illustrations likely mean this will eventually achieve classic kid lit status. I'd call it an essential Christmas picture book. Well done!

Destiny Leskovac says

The Christmas Boot is a charming story about a poor, lonely, elderly woman who finds a single boot in the forest. She is overjoyed because her feet are very cold. Before she falls asleep that night, she places the single boot by her bed and wishes she had its' mate. She wakes up to a pleasant surprise. The next few days, she makes wishes that continue to come true. Then, one day, the owner of the boots comes for them. The elderly woman immediately hands them over because she knows they do not belong to her. She is given some gifts for this kind act. One of these gifts changes her life and provides her with companionship. Children will adore this story that demonstrates the true meaning of Christmas.

Linda says

This began as a story that reminded me of that old one about the fisherman's wife, who wanted more and more wishes granted from a fish. But no, it's a kinder story about Hannah, an older woman who lives alone in the woods in a small cottage. She is out on a cold and wintry day gathering wood when she finds a boot. Yes, just one, and she certainly wonders where that other boot might be, and who is missing this wondrous and warm boot. As she returns home, she is thankful that at least one foot is warm, and wishes that the other boot might be found, too. That is the story. Each time Hannah has a thought about what might be good, it happens. She receives mittens, a fine feather bed, and even a grand house. However, she is wise and realizes that the finery really doesn't fit her, and the boot doesn't belong either. A knock at the door brings a wonderful surprise visitor and wise Hannah is rewarded with the best gift of all. You'll need to read the book to discover what that is. Jerry Pinkney's illustrations delight as usual with vibrant colors and easily read expressions in full page spreads. It is a special Christmas story with a surprise that will please.
