



Peter Spier's Christmas!

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This wordless picture book by the renowned Caldecott Medal winner celebrates a family's traditions during a very special time of the year. "Peter Spier proves that a picture can be worth a thousand words".--School Library Journal. Full color.

Peter Spier's Christmas! Details

Date : Published September 17th 1996 by Yearling Books (first published August 16th 1983)

ISBN : 9780440412854

Author : Peter Spier

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Lily says

Another delightful Peter Spier set of drawings, here clustered around Christmas, from the last withdrawal of funds from the savings funds encouraged in the '70s to the cat on the counter among the dirty dishes to the broken ornament to the first growth of a future Christmas tree. Need to have this around from at least November through January.

Julie says

all pictures!! Awesome pictures that tell the story of the Christmas season of one family.

Page says

This wordless picture book, while beautiful, depicts a rather upperclass (or maybe upper middle class) version of Christmas that can be summed up in one of the last pages where the tree and wreath are tossed out (some decorations still hung on the branches) beside the trashcans overflowing with wrapping paper and food packages. Aside from that last image, it's pretty to look at but it doesn't feel like the Christmas it represents is the one I would want to show my kid, were she younger.

Brynna Seitz says

ALL PICTURES MAKES A FABALOUS BOOK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Elizabeth says

There's something about the way Spier can tell a story so well without any words at all. This beautiful picture book tells the whole arcing story of a family's Christmas, from shopping for presents, to the pets knocking over tree ornaments in the middle of the night, through Christmas morning, and on to the discarded tree and crumpled up wrappings after the holiday, all without a single word. It was always one of my favorites as a kid, and I still pull it out every Christmas.

Rebecca Honeycutt says

Revisiting a childhood fave.

Amy says

We've had this book for several years now. The most striking thing about this book is Spier's inclusion of the less glamorous side of Christmas - consumerism, debt, dishes, packing/unpacking, waste... It sounds heavy and it is a bit - but it is all handled in pictures so it really isn't preachy. It might be a bit of a downer, but it is so REAL! And there is plenty of fun and joy to lift it all up again.

Susan says

I love this book - a wordless celebration of Christmas in a New England setting. The spread where the parents are sitting alone after cleaning up the dinner and the day, tired but satisfied, just summed up how I felt after I pulled off another one for my guys. My kids liked this book very much as well - but sometimes I think I loved this one and Rain on a whole other level...

Kendall Smith says

Grade Level: Pre-K-2

Awards: None

Summary: This wordless picture book follows a family through the adventures of the Christmas seasoning. Starting with a shopping trip and ending with a joyful family it's highly relatable to the Christmas spirit. It covers all the in between even small details like packages being dropped off at the house and the mess after opening presents.

Review: Although the pictures aren't of the best quality because it is an older book they are the perfect description. I really like how many little details of the Christmas it covers, it's a part most other stories don't cover.

In Class: This is a great book to use to talk about Christmas and let the students talk their own way through the book. Lots of Christmas activities can be based off of this book.

Melanie says

Published in 1982, I couldn't help but feel nostalgic as I looked through this picture book. It captured all the busy, loud, quiet, traditional moments of one family's Christmas, mainly through delightful illustrations.

Jess says

January 2018 - I want to celebrate Christmas in this neighborhood - it looks so warm and cozy. I love the wordless panels - there are through-lines to follow, and lots left up to your interpretation. It's magical but also realistic, ending with the garbage and tree out at the curb after the celebrations are over.

Kathryn says

4.5 STARS

A wordless picture book that details the preparations for, celebration of, and results of Christmas. Love the details, and so much of this book is very warm and happy. I saw many of our Christmas traditions reflected in these illustrations. I must say the ending felt a little bittersweet, but except for the last few pages (depicting the aftermath of Christmas), I really loved the book and even at the end the children are already planning for the next Christmas so that has a hopeful aspect.

While I think this book could be enjoyed by secular families, families who celebrate the religious aspect of Christmas will appreciate the church-going and prayer featured in this book.

Jeannie says

This is the best Christmas book ever! We check it out from the library every year. Peter Spier is a genius. He captures every moment, every emotion without writing a word. It's all in the details. I wouldn't even know where to start to choose a favorite illustration in this book. He may have created this book for children, but it seems that the older we get at our house, the more we enjoy "reading" it.

If there were more than 5 stars I would give all of them to this book. But then I think that would be true for any of Peter Spier's books.

Kathryn says

Written in 1983. In 1983 there was no such thing as a graphic novel. That's is what this is a book with no words but delightful illustrations. It takes us from the preparations for Christmas all the way through putting everything away for the next year.

David says

Peter Spier's Christmas! by Peter Spier is a wordless look at a family with three young children who prepare for, celebrate, and clean up after, Christmas.

Spier's detailed illustrations are a delight. I particularly like the details showing town decorations, mall shopping, child crying on Santa's lap, buying and decorating a real tree, putting up a nativity scene, grocery shopping, donating gifts, church service, cat in the empty box, feeding birds, singing, and planning for next year.

My only complaint is that most cats I know would not tolerate a bow for that long! :)

Recommended for all ages, Christmas, wordless, holiday, and fans of Peter Spier. -read Shelves: children-s-b-wordless,

Randie D. Camp, M.S. says

Peter Spier uses his illustrations to tell a different kind of Christmas story. Spier shows readers all the hard work and expense that goes into preparing for the perfect Christmas. He shows the excitement and joy that take place on Christmas, attending church service...and also the aftermath. Piles of dirty dishes, bins of trash, empty woods, abandoned tree/wreaths lots, children already wanting more things, and the madness of returns.

Christmas is a happy time but I appreciate Spier shedding light on the not so "perfect" aspects of Christmas. Great wordless book!

John says

It has the same pictures as the "Town-o!" book. And somebody's building 'cuz he has the construction hat on.

Emma says

My favorite christmas book.

Tricia says

Peter Spier is one of our favorite illustrators, and this book does not disappoint. It is wordless, with richly detailed pictures on each page. You watch a family prepare for, celebrate, and then clean up after Christmas. Lovely.

Kara Duncan says

This book, much like his others is a wordless beginning or picture book. Peter Spier's books tell stories using only pictures. This story shows the depiction of Christmas. Everyone loves Christmas, so why not have a book completely dedicated to it? This book shows the process of buying things for Christmas dinner, wrapping presents, eating, opening presents and the demise of it all. This book is one that is easily understood even without words. Some children focus only on pictures when it is time to read a book, which is great for this text, since it has no words.

I would use this in my reading center as a fun book. If we have down time or students finish work early they may go to the reading center and relax while looking at this wonderfully illustrated book.
