



Christmas in the Barn

Margaret Wise Brown , Diane Goode (Illustrator)

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From the bestselling author of classics like *Goodnight Moon* and *The Runaway Bunny* comes a Christmas story sure to delight readers for generations.

With gentle, lyrical text from Margaret Wise Brown and heartwarming illustrations from Caldecott Honor-winning artist Diane Goode, *Christmas in the Barn* introduces young readers to the story of the first Christmas.

What child is this / who is born here / Where the oxen / stomp and peer...

Christmas in the Barn Details

Date : Published September 21st 2004 by HarperCollins (first published 1952)

ISBN : 9780060526344

Author : Margaret Wise Brown , Diane Goode (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Holiday, Christmas, Childrens, Picture Books

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From Reader Review Christmas in the Barn for online ebook

Julie Barrett says

Christmas in the Barn by Margaret Wise Brown

Audio version so I am not seeing the colorful pictures.

Children's book about the reason for the season-the birth of Christ.

Setting: the barn and who is there, the animals and the sounds.

Christmas day and the sound of an infant crying and the animals all gather as the gifts arrive.

I received this book from National Library Service for my BARD (Braille Audio Reading Device).

Luisa Knight says

Nice story, darling illustrations, but I'm not sure why it looks like a character from Anne of Green Gables is in the barn having a baby? Why set it in Canada when it's supposed to be in Israel?

Ages: 4 - 8

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Emma says

No, dear, don't try to retell the nativity story.

We're a very religious family so this was extremely weird and somewhat confusing to me.

This is the nativity story set in what the author calls an "ancient field" but in the illustrations show what is clearly a large American barn. In the snow. THE SNOW! Weird. Also, the author rhymes ass with grass and that's just lazy.

Samantha says

A childlike interpretation of the Nativity story. The text is read aloud friendly and the oil paint, pastel, pencil, and marker illustrations are a must see.

I think this title will appeal to a broad base of readers as it is not full of bible verses and religious names/terms, rather the story is stripped bare and is simply told as a couple finding shelter in a barn and welcoming a child.

Great gift item or for seasonal sharing with PreK-2.

paula says

HOW did Margaret Wise Brown always do this? What key did she have to constructing sentences that descend into calm like a baby being gently lowered into a crib? Her strings of short clauses, the occasional internal rhyme, all of it creates a hypnotic, reverential read aloud that is nevertheless clear-eyed and unsentimental.

Bow to the master.

Margaret Chind says

I read the 2016 revision illustrated by Anna Dewdney. Classic and vintage text, poetic to the ear. (Includes the donkey term "ass" as per a rhyme with grass ad a vintage term.) Illustrated iin a similar fashion to Llama Llama books, perhaps pastels.

David Goetz says

I read/own the version illustrated by Barbara Cooney, because why would you read any other version. A spare, restful telling of the Nativity story set on a New England farm. The baby born is never explicitly identified as Jesus, but that makes it fun to search with my daughters for clues and allusions that reveal his identity (the star, "Because there was no room in the inn," "When hail," shepherds and sheep, "What child is this," "Away in a manger," et al.). The illustrations are excellent--pretty much the same style as in the Caldecott-winner *Chanticleer and the Fox*, which Cooney illustrated right around the same time.

Beverly says

Also saw the version illustrated by Anna Dewdney.
Also saw the version illustrated by Diane Goode.

Roben says

A lovely retelling of the Christmas story! And the late Anna Dewdney lovingly illustrated this new edition of this Margaret Wise Brown classic. Be sure to share this precious story with little ones over the Christmas holidays. As Linus would say, "That's what Christmas is all about...."

Liz Todd says

Perfection. Sticks to the Biblical account, beautiful illustrations, a little rhyme.. not too much text.

Abigail says

Christmas In the Barn, illustrated by **Anna Dewdney**

From the pen of Margaret Wise Brown, author of such childhood classics as Goodnight Moon and The Runaway Bunny, comes this poetic retelling of the story of the Nativity. Incorporating snippets of established carols - "away in a manger, no crib for his bed" - the simple narrative here follows the tale of Mary and Joseph, and how they came to "a big warm barn in an ancient field" where a miracle occurred...

Originally published in 1952, and accompanied by the artwork of Barbara Cooney, Christmas In the Barn has been reissued this year (2016) with new illustrations by Anne Dewdney, the creator of the popular *Llama Llama* picture-books. The result is an engaging Christmas book, one which presents a well-known story in a child-friendly way. As an admirer of Cooney's, I'd like to track down the original and compare her artwork with Dewdney's, but overall I was pleased with this version.

Ama says

Dewdney's illustrations make this a lovely tale to read (and pushed it from 3 to 4 stars for me).

Calista says

This text is from 1952 and for some reason they decided to have a new illustrator come up with new pictures and reissue the book in 2016. Interesting. I'm counting this as 1952 as that is the original text. I don't like that practice. Margaret has no control or way in the matter since she's dead. OH well, 1st world problems.

It's a simple book set in the desert of Bethlehem. (there are more than one illustrator so Anna Dewdney sets it in a desert, not the snow) It's about the animals in the barn the night Jesus was born. They are cute animals. There is a sentence per page. It tells a simple message for a straight forward story. It does have a silent sense of awe for the story.

I think this was a little young for the kids. It was quick though. They thought this was an ok story. As soon as it was done they wanted to go on to the next book. They gave it 2 stars by the Niece and 3 star by the nephew.

Abigail says

Christmas In the Barn, illustrated by **Barbara Cooney**

"In a big warm barn / In an ancient field / The oxen lowed, / the donkey squealed, the horses stomped, / the cattled sighed / And quietly the daylight died / In the sunset of the west." So begins this lovely retelling of the Nativity Story from 1952. Author Margaret Wise Brown's poetic text makes several references to famous Christmas carols, with phrases like "what child is this," or "away in a manger" sprinkled throughout, while illustrator Barbara Cooney's artwork sets the ancient story in what looks like an early to mid-twentieth-century New England farmyard. The tale concludes with both textual and visual warmth, depicting Mary and Joseph, the manger animals, and some visiting shepherds as they all gather around the little Christ Child..

This story from the pen of Margaret Wise Brown has been illustrated by a number of different artists over the years, from Barbara Cooney (the first and best, in my opinion), to Diane Goode and (most recently) Anna Dewdney. Although I found the Dewdney quite engaging (I have not as yet read the Goode), all in all I prefer this original version illustrated by Cooney. There is just an immense charm to the visuals here, which alternate between black and white two-page spreads and those which utilize a limited color palette of red, yellow and blue. Whichever style she is using however, there is always a feeling of depth and of mystery to her illustrations, and a feeling of tenderness that is particularly pronounced in the depiction of the animals and of the little baby. Highly recommended, both to Cooney fans, and to anyone looking for poetic, well-written Nativity stories.

Samantha says

A nice simple retelling of the Christmas story. Lots of beautiful illustration and simple wording. Good for 2-4 yr. olds.
