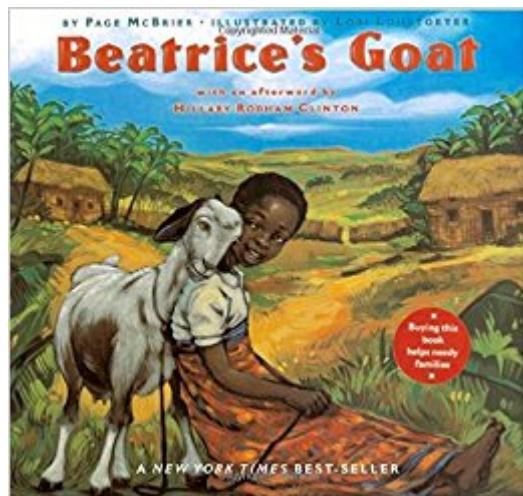


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Beatrice's Goat



Synopsis

This illustrated book offers the true story of how a poor African girl was able to attend school after receiving a goat as a gift through a special international project and then sell its milk to get the money needed to buy her books. Reprint.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 640 (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Aladdin; Reprint edition (July 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689869908

ISBN-13: 978-0689869907

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.2 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 95 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #52,079 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty #32 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa #129 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Farm Animals

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

When her family's fat, sleek new goat arrives in her poor Ugandan village, little Beatrice hugs her close and whispers, "Mama says you are our lucky gift...." And indeed it is true. Soon the goat bears two kids and provides enough milk to both feed the family and sell for profit. Until the goat arrived, life was very hard for Beatrice and her five brothers and sisters. The family could not afford to send the children to school, and it was difficult to make ends meet. Magically this one small animal, one of 12 given the village, opens up a new world of health and prosperity. Before the year is out, Beatrice happily realizes her dream of becoming a school girl and her delighted family moves into a sturdy new house. Based on the true account of one family who received aid from Heifer Project International, a charitable organization that donates livestock to poor communities around the world, this moving story is eloquently and gracefully recounted. Vividly evoking the lush tropical landscape of central Africa, Lohstoeter's rich, deeply-hued illustrations perfectly complement the text and make

Beatrice and her world affectingly real. Although she may live far removed from the comfortable middle-class lives of many young readers, it is clear that Beatrice is a girl of unusual heart and, like any child, filled with hopes and dreams. In her afterword Hillary Rodham Clinton writes, "Beatrice's Goat is a heartwarming reminder that families, wherever they live, can change their lives for the better." A portion of the publisher's proceeds goes to support the Heifer Project. (Ages 4 to 8)

--Marianne Painter --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

An impoverished family begins to flourish after receiving a special gift--of the four-legged variety--in this uplifting picture book set in western Uganda. Beatrice longs to attend school with other village children, but instead she must tend her five younger siblings and help her mother in the fields. Everything starts to change, however, when Beatrice and her family receive a goat, "a lucky gift," says her mother, from a charitable organization. As the months pass, the animal provides the family with sweet milk to enjoy and sell and a pair of kids that will eventually be sold as well. With the goat's bounty, the family soon has enough money to send Beatrice to school. McBrier's tale, inspired by actual events, succeeds in demonstrating the positive ripple effect of the efforts of one organization, but an afterword by Hillary Rodham Clinton sounds like an advertisement for Heifer Project (the donors of the goat). Perhaps the volume's greatest strength is Lohstoeter's (How the Leopard Got His Spots) sunny acrylic paintings, which capture the hues of dusty thatched huts and verdant banana groves of the African landscape. Sweet-faced Beatrice and her mother take center stage, wearing colorful, traditional clothes, and their bond is palpable. Ages 4-8. (Feb.) Little Rock, Ark.-based Heifer Project International, a nonprofit group working to end global hunger by providing livestock and training to people in need. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Beautiful book. We give these as birthday gifts along with a flock of chicks or a share of a goat to Heifer International, especially when they say, "no gifts please".

With beautiful, colorful illustrations and simple, eloquent prose, this book tells the story of how the gift of one goat transforms the life of a little Ugandan girl and her family, ultimately allowing Beatrice to attend school and raise her whole family from poverty. The tale is inspiring, not preachy - inspiring not only for what the goat means to Beatrice, but for what it demonstrates to us all. Small gifts can mean the world. Not only do proceeds from this book benefit Heifer International, but thanks to the story, many more children and families may realize that the gift of a goat to people

they don't even know may last longer than any present under the tree. Last Christmas - before I had even heard of the book - my fiance and I decided to give a goat through Heifer International, as our gift to each other. We still take delight in imagining our goat, happy and giving its milk to help a family know a better life.

This is an excellent book to read to a young child to teach him/her about the third world, far apart from how we live, and about what we take for granted, and what we can give. In this true story, Beatrice dreams of someday going to school, but is stuck taking care of her many siblings and working with her mother. Through the kindness and generosity of some kind people far away, she is given a lucky gift. She comes to understand over time that this can help her to achieve her goals, and it changes the lives of her whole family. This feel-good book makes me cry every time (I always cry at happy endings!), even after several readings, but I keep reading it because my daughter loves it. Your purchase of this book contributes to children like Beatrice, but don't just stop there. Read the last page to see how else you can contribute.

When I asked my 18 year old daughter what she wanted for Christmas she told me to donate a goat in her name to some little girl in Uganda. I found an organization that does that and then I also bought my daughter this book to go with the certificate that the organization had sent me. My daughter said it was the best Christmas gift she had ever received. She is hoping to make it a family tradition when she gets married and has children to donate a goat every year at Christmas and to take out this book and read it to her children.

I've read over 5,000 books (some repeats) with my 5 year old. This book is one of our favorites. Unlike most books of today, there are no mean characters. The message is one of hope, and demonstrates the value of an education! I recently bought this book for my father-in-law. It will be a great story for him to read to the grandkids. Additionally, I made a \$20 donation to Heifer International in his name. Each time he reads the story, he will be reminded that our family has touched the lives of others around the world.

I ordered this book as a gift for a friend who is starting her own daycare center, and this was SUCH a great buy!! The book was shipped ridiculously fast and arrived early! The pictures and colors in the book are SO vibrant and lifelike, it was hard to look away (kids will definitely love the drawings), print is very easy to read and the message of the story is just wonderful :) Even as an adult reading

it, I couldn't put it down until I finished it!

My wife and I have worked in Uganda for nearly 13 years. We have a sponsorship program to help kids go to school. The story here is very real. We have seen situations exactly like the one described here. It's great to introduce kids to the realities of the third world. We've given this book as a gift many times, and hope to continue doing so. It doesn't hurt some adults to be reminded how the "big half" of the world lives. This book does that quite well!

This story was recommended to me to include in my Social Studies unit about Communities...Wants Needs Goods and Services...etc. Not only was the story wonderful, it will fit perfectly into my unit. Great opportunity to integrate a fictional story with a nonfiction topic.

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